Mayher afett Session

MINUTES.

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD
OF IRELAND.

1881.

Magherafelt Session

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MINUTES

OF

THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD

OF IRELAND,

AT ITS

ANNUAL MEETING IN BELFAST,

JUNE, 1881.

Londonderry:
ANDREW EMERY, PRINTER AND STATIONER, CARLISLE ROAD.
1881.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Synod

IN IRELAND.

SESSION I.

Belfast, Monday, 20th June, 1881, 7.30, p.m.

THE SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND met; and, after a discourse by the Moderator from 1 Cor. i. 23, 24—"But we preach Christ crucified," &c.—was constituted with prayer. Constitution.

The ruling elders delegated by the several Sessions handed in their commissions, and the Roll was formed as follows:—

THE REV. ALEXANDER M. STAVELY, MODERATOR.

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Jas. D. Houston, B.A.	William Ramsay.....	B:Clabber, Coleraine.*
John Hart	John M'Fall.....	Ballylaggan, B:Money.
James Brown	James Warnock.....	Ballymoney.
....	.....	Cloughmills, B:Mena.
... .	Francis Kane.....	Dervock.
Isaac Thompson, LL.D	James Stewart.....	Drimbolg, Portglenone
James Littlejohn	James Fullerton.....	Garvagh.
.....	Robert Anderson.....	Kellswater, B:Mena.
William J. Morell	George Stewart	Kilraughts, B:Money.
....	....	Ringrash, Coleraine.
Alexander M. Stavely...	....	.....

Roll.

* The Minister's post town, where that differs in name from the congregation, is added.

Roll.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Alexander Savage	Joseph J. Irvine.....	Ballenon, Poynt
William M'Knight	.....	Ballylane, Market
Gawin Douglas	Thomas Henry.....	Crievagh, Ballybay
.....	.....	Dromore, Down.
George Lillie†	.....	Fairview, C:Blayney.
William S. Ferguson..	.....	Grange, Stewartstown.
....	.....	Lisdonnan.
Joseph F. Hurst.....	William Morrow	Loughbrickland.
Alexander S. Lyons ..	Archibald Murphy....	Newry.
John Martin	Adam M'Neilly	Rathfriland.

EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Thomas Dick.....	W. J. Galway.....	Bailiesmills, Lisburn.
William Russell	Robert Blair	Ballyclare.
Josias A. Chancellor..	John Stewart	Belfast.
Torrens Boyd.....	Robert Mack	Dromara. [Down.
Matthew Hodge	Thomas Patterson	Killinchy, Derryboy,
Thomas Houston, D.D.	William W. Houston. *Alt.* Wm. Chancellor	Knockbracken, Belfast.
.....	.....	Larne.
Wm. J. Maxwell, M.A.†	Daniel Clements	Liverpool.
Robert Allen.....	.....	Newtownards.

WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Charles K. Toland....	James Buchanan,....	Bready, Strabane.
John W. MacKeown...	.....	Convoy.
.....	John Longwill	Faughan, Londonderry
William Dick, M.A...	John Blair.....	Limavady.
Robert Nevin.....	.....	Londonderry.
William Scott	Thomas M'Farlane....	Mulvin, N:Stewart.
R. A. M'Farlane, B.D.	.....	Stranorlar.

N.B.—The Rev. A. M. Moore, of Geelong, Australia, and the Rev. James Martin, M.A., M.D., missionary in Antioch, are reckoned members of the Eastern Presbytery.

I. It was moved by Dr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Douglas, that the Rev. W. S. Ferguson be Moderator for the ensuing year. Mr. Ferguson respectfully declined the nomination, on account of his advanced years.

Mr. Lyons chosen Moderator.

It was then moved by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Allen, that the Rev. A. S. Lyons, of Newry, be the Moderator. This was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Lyons took the chair and briefly addressed the court.

Hours of Meeting.

II. It was agreed that the hours of meeting be from ten, *a.m.* (to-morrow, eleven), till three, *p.m.*; and from seven, *p.m.*, till ten, or later as occasion may require.

† Not present at any of the Sessions.

III. Messrs. R. A. M'Farlane, J. D. Houston, Douglas, Chancellor, and Dr. Thompson were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, and to prepare an Order of Business—to meet to-morrow at ten, *a.m.* Committee of Bills & Order of Business.

IV. A Committee for inspecting the Records of Presbyteries was appointed, consisting of Rev. Thomas Dick (convener), Rev. T. Boyd, and Mr. Galway—to report at a subsequent sederunt. This Committee afterwards reported as follows:— Records of Presbyteries.

"Having examined the Records of Presbyteries, we have seen satisfactory evidence that they have been very properly kept.

"THOMAS DICK, Convener."

V. Dr. Houston, Mr. Ferguson, and Mr. M'Neilly, were appointed to prepare a minute in reference to the death of the Rev. Samuel Simms. They subsequently submitted the minute as follows:— Death of Rev. S. Simms.

"The death of Rev. Samuel Simms, who was a member of this Synod, and a minister of the Church for a period of forty-two years, calls for an expression of our esteem of his character, and that we should place on record a testimony of approval of the ability, faithfulness, and devotedness, which distinguished him in the performance of his work, as a minister, the pastor of a flock, and a witness for precious truth.

"When advanced in studies for the ministry in a larger section of the Church, he, from full conviction, embraced the principles of a Covenanted testimony, which he ever after maintained with intelligent appreciation, and unwavering steadfastness; and laboured, both by preaching and by his writings, to recommend and diffuse. During his years of bodily and mental vigour, he preached the glorious Gospel, with fulness, clearness, and convincing power; and he laboured conscientiously and with much acceptance in the discharge of pastoral duties. He was characterized by Christian meekness and candour, and by a confiding, loving spirit, and he was greatly loved by brethren in the ministry and by others.

"The severe domestic trials with which he was visited, he bore with resignation and patience; and he gave evidence that they produced in him sanctified fruits. When in the latter part of his life, he was laid aside for a number of years from active service in the Church, his retirement was improved in cultivating near fellowship with the Master whom he loved, and in enlarged acquaintance with the verities of the Gospel of peace. As showing his devoted attachment to a Covenanted testimony, and his earnest desire to promote its diffusion, when his bodily and mental vigour was somewhat restored, he prepared and published several able pamphlets, exhibiting and defending the Church's distinctive principles. His removal by death, though sudden, took place when the work to which he was called was finished, and he was prepared for the heavenly rest.

"While the Synod would regard this bereavement as a solemn call addressed to the ministers and elders individually to labour in the service of Christ and the Church, with greater diligence and devotedness, and to prepare for the coming of the Lord, they would, at the same time, tender to the surviving members of the family of our departed brother, their cordial sympathy and affectionate regards."

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION II.

Tuesday, 21st June, 11 o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed, Mr. M'Neilly conducting devotional exercises.

Order of Business. VI. The Committee of Bills submitted an Order of Business, which was adopted, and some copies ordered to be printed for the use of members of Synod.

Deputation from S. Synod VII. A commission from the Scottish Synod to Rev. R. Dunlop, and Mr. John M'Donald, ruling elder, as a deputation to this Synod, was handed in and read.

Mr. M'Donald was present, and took his seat in court.

The Clerk read a communication, dated 18th inst., from Mr. Dunlop, accounting for his absence from the fact that, very soon after their meeting, he had an attack of serious illness, from which he, at the time of writing, was only slowly recovering.

It was moved by Mr. Stavely, seconded by Mr. Boyd, and passed unanimously—"That Synod deeply sympathize with Mr. Dunlop in his present affliction, and regret that he is unable from indisposition to be present at the meeting of this court."

Rev. J. Dick present. The Rev. James Dick, M.A., of Wishaw, being present, was unanimously invited to sit and deliberate.

Next Meeting. VIII. The next meeting of Synod was appointed to be held in Belfast, on the Monday after the second Sabbath of June, 1882.

Trustees' Report. IX. The report of Synod's Trustees, with the General Financial Statement, were submitted and read. The following is the report:—

Trustees' Report.

The funds of the Church in the hands of Synod's Trustees have not sustained any loss during the past year. The investments that have been made are all sound and so far profitable that we have been able to pay five per cent. interest to the different schemes. It is becoming, however, more difficult every year to secure so large an income. By the will of the late Miss Adams, of Aldohill, who was long connected with the congregation of Mulvin, and was a consistent and generous supporter of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, £100, without the usual deductions, was bequeathed to each of the following objects:—The Aged Ministers' Fund, the Foreign Mission, the Congregational Aid Fund, and the Fund for the Widows and Orphans of deceased Ministers. The payment of this £400 to the General Treasurer, together with some smaller sums, enables the Trustees to show a total considerably in advance of last year.

JOSIAS A. CHANCELLOR.

It was moved by the Rev. A. M. Stavely, seconded by the Rev. A. Savage, and passed, *nem. diss.*, "That the very satisfactory Report be accepted, with an expression of sincere gratitude to the Trustees, especially to Mr. Meharg, Treasurer, for their attention and success in managing the monetary affairs of the Synod."

Preaching Appointments

X. The Clerks of Presbyteries were instructed to meet this evening at 6.30, to make out a list of Preaching Appointments, and report afterwards.

The scheme submitted and accepted is as follows :—

PREACHERS' APPOINTMENTS.

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Mr. S. Ferguson, ..	W.	N.	E.S.	W.	N.
Mr. Mogee, ..	N.	W.N	W.N.	E.S.	W.N.

The Covenanter.

XI. The Editor of *The Covenanter* reported that there was a further diminution this year in the number of subscribers, but it was hoped that this would only be temporary, if ministers would interest themselves a little more in promoting the circulation.

On motion of Professor Chancellor, seconded by Mr. Savage, a committee was appointed, consisting of Professor Chancellor, Dr. Thompson, Mr. Douglas, and Mr. Clements —to consult with the editor as to the means to be employed in trying to increase the interest in the periodical.

Code of Discipline.

XII. The Committee on The Code of Discipline had not a report to submit. The Committee was re-appointed, with an injunction to have their report ready next year.

Report on Theol. Hall.

XIII. The Report on the Theological Hall was called for and read, as follows :—

Report of the Committee of Superintendence of the Theological Hall for 1880-1881.

Opening.

The Committee of Superintendence of the Theological Hall reported, that the 25th Session was opened on Tuesday, 9th November, 1880, when four Students were enrolled—one of the 3rd year; and three of the 2nd. They were examined on the subjects which had been prescribed for intersessional study, and acquitted themselves in a way that was pleasing to the Committee. In the evening Mr. Stavely delivered a public lecture, on "Paul, the Great Missionary Apostle."

Business—Syst. Theol.

BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY.

The attendance of the Students during the past Session,

Report on Theol. Hall. Syst. Theol.

their attention to the duties of the class, and their deportment throughout, gave to me complete satisfaction. An admirable spirit of keen rivalry, independent criticism, and Christian courtesy, marked their intercourse with each other. Several of the essays produced were in a style of exceptional excellence. A considerable advance was shown in the art of skeletonizing; and the fire of criticism through which these interesting exercises had to pass must have had a quickening effect upon the minds of the authors, although their projected discourses suffered severely enough in the process. The attention that was given to reading and elocution led to a manifest improvement in the manner in which the public discourses were delivered.

The first part of the course of Systematic Theology furnished the subjects of the prelections and examinations during the past Session. After showing the connection between Religion and Theology, the limits and value of Natural Theology, and its insufficiency, were pointed out. Then the nature and value of Revelation and of Inspiration were discussed in a number of lectures. This led to a consideration of the Canon of Scripture: Its Genuineness, Authenticity, and Divine Authority. The Bearing of Criticism on the Canon, and the Claims of the Higher Criticism, were discussed in eight lectures. By the aid of readings and examinations on the class-book, intermixed with the lectures, I was able to bring before the Students the doctrines concerning God, His Attributes, the Trinity, the Decrees, the Creation of Man, the Covenant of Works, the Fall of Man, and his present condition of guilt and depravity.

JOSIAS A. CHANCELLOR.

EXEGETICAL AND PASTORAL THEOLOGY AND ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

Exegetics.

I. Exegesis.—(1.) *Hebrew.*—Read critically Psalm xiv.; Zechariah, chapters vii. and viii.; and Genesis, chapters i. ii. iii. and iv.

(2.) *Greek.*—Critical readings and lectures on Hebrews, last six chapters; and on the Epistle of Jude.

Apologetic and Exegetical.—Four lectures on the concluding part of our Lord's earthly ministry, His death, resurrection, and ascension.

Four lectures on the history and arrangement of the Greek MSS. of the New Testament, ancient versions, and printed text.

Past. Theol.

II. Pastoral Theology.—Besides the instructions given in the critical readings and lectures, there were delivered five lectures—on The Importance of Personal Piety in

Candidates; Public Prayer; The Essential Characteristics of a Good Sermon; The Composition and Parts of a Sermon; and Expository Preaching. Report on Theol. Hall.

III. Ecclesiastical History.—Period, The First Five Centuries; Readings and Examinations on Mosheim weekly; twelve lectures on the subjects embraced in this portion of the history of the Church, beginning with Pentecost, and reaching to the General Councils held on the Arian, Christological, and Anthropological Controversies, and The Life, Times, and Works of Augustine. A concluding lecture was given on Scottish Presbyterian history. Subject: "The Revolution Settlement, and Position and Testimony of the Society People." Eccl. Hist.

The Students evinced throughout close attention to the various studies of the class; and care in preparing the exercises prescribed, whether the more elaborate in the Synod's Plan of Education, or those which were assigned them from time to time on the different subjects of the course. I had all reason to be satisfied with their uniform, becoming conduct; and trust I may be permitted to add, that there were indications of a spirit of deep seriousness pervading their studies.

THOMAS HOUSTON.

Belfast, March 8th, 1881.

INTERSESSIONAL STUDIES.

All Students attending the Hall during the Session of 1881-82 will, on entrance, be examined on the following subjects:— Intersessional Studies.

The Scriptures.—Book of Deuteronomy: its Mosaic Authorship, in opposition to the views of the Higher Criticism—Period which it embraces—Analysis of its contents—Account for differences between it and the other books of the Pentateuch—the record at the close.

Westminster Confession.—Chapters xvi., xx.

Historical Testimony.—Period VI.

Hebrew and Greek Testament.—Students of the first year will be examined on the Elements of Hebrew Grammar. Those of the second and third year on Psalm l., and Exodus xv.

Ecclesiastical History.— Mosheim — Fifth and Sixth Centuries.

Systematic Theology.—Butler's Analogy, second Part.

Exercises and Discourses prescribed for Students proposing to enter the Hall, and to such as have already entered, are required to be in readiness to be submitted at the opening of the Session. Those who desire to enter

Report on Theol. Hall.

the Hall for the first time should apply to soon for the subjects of discourses.

Signed, THOMAS HOU
JOSIAS A. CHALMER

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

Close of Session.

The Session was closed on Tuesday, 8th March. The Professors reported respecting the work of the Session, and, in very high terms, of the conduct and industry of the Students. They examined on the subjects of their lectures, and the members of the Committee expressed much satisfaction with the answers. The Students severally read specimens of their composition, which gave evidence of their having profited well in their studies.

FUNDS.

Funds.

The recommendation of the Committee, appointed by the Commission of Synod in March, 1880, to have a second or supplemental collection taken up for the Hall, was not entertained by Synod at its last meeting; but, instead of this, a sum of £100 was borrowed from the Education Fund. The single collection has been no improvement on the past. The consequence is, that the scheme is running rapidly into debt, without prospect of liquidation. We would now suggest that the title "Hall and Synod Fund" should cease to be employed—that a collection for the Theological Hall be taken up as heretofore, but restricted in its application to the purposes of the Hall—and that a new annual collection be ordered, to be called, "The Contingent," or, "The General Purposes Fund," from which a surplus might be expected, available for supplementing the Hall collection. The circumstance, that our Irish Mission is for the present in abeyance, makes way for such a collection; and its designation would warrant such an appropriation.

The adoption of the Report was moved by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Boyd, and passed unanimously, with the exception of the suggestion at the end, which was reserved for further consideration.

After some conversation on the subject, it was resolved that a collection be taken up as heretofore on the first Sabbath in each year, to be called simply "Collection for Theological Hall," and the proceeds devoted exclusively to purposes immediately connected with the Hall; and that another collection be taken up annually on the first Sabbath of August, to be denominated "Collection for Synodical and Incidental Fund," to meet travelling and other Synodical expenses, the surplus, if any, going to the Hall Fund.

It was moved by Mr. Toland, seconded by Mr. John

Stewart, t vnod ke a free gift to the Hall and Syn Fu (the . 00 borrowed from the Education Fund last ar, toget er with the £5 interest charged upon it. Report on Theol. Hall.

It was mo ed as an amendment by Mr. Savage, seconded by Dr. Thompson, that these sums be not so disposed of.

The time for adjournment having arrived, the discussion of the motion and amendment had to be postponed.

Adjourned with the benediction.

SESSION III.

Tuesday, 21st June, 7 o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed, the Clerk conducting devotional exercises.

XIV. Dr. Houston read the report of the Foreign and Jewish Mission. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. M'Donald, and passed *nem. diss.* The following is the report :— Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

Annual Report of the Foreign and Jewish Mission, for the Year ending June, 1881.

The past year in the history of the mission in Syria, has been, in various respects, one of progress and trial. On all sides, there are encouraging tokens of the advancement of truth throughout different parts of the Turkish Empire, and especially in Palestine proper and Syria. The exploration of Palestine, which is now in progress in the countries east of the Jordan, has supplied a remarkable confirmation of the truth of holy Scripture, and is preparing the way for the heralds of the cross, and for the pursuits of peaceful industry. The Bible, in the new Arabic version, and in the other eastern languages, is spreading, and many who were hitherto in mental and spiritual darkness, among whom are Moslems, now read the Word of God, and are inquiring after the truth. The desire after education is becoming universal; schools, primary and of a higher order, are increasing—the people of different classes in some places professing their readiness to furnish all facilities for their establishment, and even to pay for the instruction given. It is gratifying to state that in general the parents make no objection against Scriptural teaching in the schools, and children that are for a time withdrawn, through the hostility of the priests of corrupt churches, often return in a short time when the storm has passed over. Even the opposition which missionaries and the teachers of Scriptural schools have to encounter, furnishes decided proof that the truth is making progress, and that Progress and Trial.

Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

the downfall of systems of error and superstition is approaching.

Our esteemed missionary has been sustained in his manifold labours; and amidst difficulties and trials, has not been without tokens of gracious support and success.

Dr. and Mrs. Martin.

During a portion of last year, the health of Mrs. Martin was so infirm that she had to be removed for a time from Antioch, both for medical advice, and for needed rest and relaxation. The absence of one so active and useful, from the work of the mission, and from the domestic circle, which her presence always gladdened, was felt to be a severe trial to the missionary, and to his fellow-labourers. In the merciful providence of the Redeemer, Mrs. Martin's health has, in the later months, been considerably restored, though she has not yet recovered her former vigour. It is trusted that the school vacation in summer, and her resort to a sanitary retreat, may, under the Divine blessing, have the effect of restoring her to vigorous health. In case this does not take place, it is worthy of consideration whether she should not be invited to seek, in a more lengthened retirement from the scene of exhausting anxiety and labour, that refreshment and re-invigoration of strength, which she requires after so many years of devoted work.

Work in Antioch.

The work of the mission in Antioch, in its several departments has been carried on, during the year, with much regularity, and with an encouraging measure of success. The attendance on the preaching of the Word on Sabbath has been regular, and not unfrequently larger than in former seasons. Preaching in the open air has been maintained, as often as the state of the weather permitted, nothing occurring at any time that manifested hostility to the messages delivered, but on the contrary, the benefit was afterwards seen in several who were thus drawn to hear the Gospel coming to the Sabbath services, and in inquiring at the missionary concerning the truths spoken. Occasionally such inquiries are made with apparent earnestness by native Christians, Mohammedans and others, encouraging the hope that persons thus drawn may hereafter be led to make a full Scriptural profession of the truth.

Colporteur's Work.

The work of the colporteur in circulating the Scriptures, conversing and reasoning with the people respecting the doctrines contained in them, and the duties which they inculcate, and in inviting them to attend public worship, is valuable, and is followed with good results. The

Schools.

schools, both male and female, under the management of tried teachers, who are now members of the Church, and favoured with the vigilant superintendence of Dr. and

Mrs. Martin, have enjoyed considerable prosperity, though they are at times tried with the hostility of the Greek clergy. The progress of the pupils in secular learning, and in the knowledge of holy Scripture, has been to a large extent satisfactory. The chief interest taken by the different classes of the community in the educational work of the mission, is manifested by the large attendance of the people, some of them of respectable rank and station, at the annual examination of the schools. There is every reason to hope that the good seed sown in the minds of the youth of Syria will, in future years, be productive of precious fruit. The wide extension of efficient Scriptural schools in Syria appears to be one of the most promising agencies for dispelling the mental and spiritual darkness that at present covers the land, and for preparing the way for the general diffusion and triumph of the Gospel.

Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

Schools.

The Medical department of the mission is chiefly of value on account of its bringing the missionary in contact with the poorer classes of the community, and furnishing him with an opportunity of making known to them the truths of the Word, and of exhibiting the benevolent influence of the Gospel. In the city of Antioch, there is a considerable number, both of the natives and of Europeans, who practice the medical profession, so that there is less access to the better classes of society for the medical missionary than would be found in some other parts of Syria. Yet there seems to be no doubt that the practice of his medical skill by our esteemed missionary has an influence for good, in recommending his spiritual instructions to the people among whom he labours.

Medical Department.

In the latter part of the year, several persons from the Greek Church, who had attended regularly public and social worship, and who were earnest inquirers, after careful instruction were received into the fellowship of the Church. The accession of two of these—a father and his son—to the membership of the mission congregation, served to rouse the hostility of the Greek bishop and priesthood against them. The father's means of livelihood were taken away from him, and parents were warned not to send their children to the school which he conducted. The accession of a third convert, a young man who was educated and respectably connected, roused the whole Greek sect to fury. His relatives, and others of their co-religionists, made an assault on the mission buildings, and threatened the lives of those who were in them; and but for the interposition of the civil authorities much injury to person and property would have been done. After resisting the entreaties of relatives, and enduring much persecution, these three converts at the time of the Easter

Defection of some Converts

Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

festival were led by the influence and acts of the Greek bishops to forsake the assembling together with the missionary and the Church, and to return to their former profession. This has been very painful to Dr. Martin, and the other converts, but although cast down, they are not dismayed. The like has been the experience of many who have laboured for the spread of the Gospel in heathen lands, and among the adherents of apostate Churches. Those who have thus fallen, may yet by divine grace, bestowed in answer to the prayers of God's people, be again restored; and should they not, other smay be gathered, who warned by such an example, and tested by severe trial, will stand fast in the profession of the truth, and be chosen instruments for diffusing it widely. Our missionary and his flock have a strong claim upon the sympathy and prayers of all the friends of the mission in this disappointment of their hopes and severe trial of their faith and patience. The spirit, to which they give expression, is that which we should cherish. "We are bowed down," they say, "feeling as though bereaved of friends. We are sustained however in the midst of our sorrow at the dishonour done to Christ and His truth, and the injury done to themselves by these individuals, by the confidence that all things will work together for good to that cause in whose service we are engaged, and by the assurance that our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord. 'The triumphing of the wicked is short.' We desire to learn a lesson from this painful event, and be provoked by it to greater zeal and diligence than before." Dr. M. was cheered soon after by the attendance of several of the Greek community at public worship on Sabbath. Among these was a young man of one of the most respectable Greek families in the town. He has been an earnest inquirer for a good many months, and is very diligent in the study of the Scriptures and of the Shorter Catechism with proofs. As instances of the effect of Scriptural instruction on the young, the following may be mentioned. A boy of twelve years of age, who attends the mission school was dangerously ill. In the presence of the teacher, one of the Greek priests being also present, the lad's uncle told him to pray to the Virgin to make him well. He refused, and commenced to pray to the Saviour, saying He only could help him. Not long after, before the lad was well again, his father died, leaving six children. It is customary among the Greek sect to bring the children forward just before the corpse is carried from the house, and each child who is able is expected to say something by way of elegy. When the turn of a little girl who also is one of our pupils came, she repeated the twenty-third psalm in the Arabic metrical

Claims on Sympathy and Prayers.

Hopeful signs

Instances of good impressions.

version. She had learned it in our school. The spectators were much moved, at hearing the little orphan repeat, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want—though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me. . . . Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." Thus, amid some disappointment and trial, God's servants who are sowing precious seed with tears, are encouraged to cherish the hope that they shall one day return, bearing the sheaves of a plentiful harvest.

Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

After a lengthened delay, and encountering many difficulties, our missionary has effected the purchase of the site for the mission buildings, and has the deed of transferenc, eduly registered according to Turkish law and custom, in his possession. The appeal to the members of the Church for funds to effect this work should be readily and liberally responded to, as suitable buildings for carrying on the operations of the mission have become an absolute necessity. Without them the health of the agents is seriously endangered, and the attendance both at public worship and the schools must fall far short of what might otherwise be reasonably expected. So soon as plans and estimates of the buildings shall have been approved by the Joint Mission Committees, the erection will be commenced, and it is hoped that before the expiration of another year, we shall be able to report that in a central place such as Antioch is, with the prospect of an increased population, the Church is possessed of mission buildings suitable and attractive. Were liberal members of the Church to set an example by giving large donations, such an investment made in faith would give an impulse to the undertaking, and would be followed by a rich reward in furthering the Gospel, and promoting the establishment of the Redeemer's kingdom in the earth. "There is that giveth, and yet increaseth." "The liberal soul deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things shall he stand."

Site for Buildings Secured.

The need of having a second missionary in the Syrian field must, to all who take an interest in the cause, appear urgent; and to supply it, at no distant day, devolves on the Church a serious responsibility. Dr. Martin requires much the aid of a fellow-labourer if his life and health are not to be imperilled, and the very existence of the mission be endangered. In view of this necessity, it is deserving of consideration whether the mission committee should not be instructed by Synod to make personal application to the ministers, licentiates, and theological students of the Church, to induce them to engage in this service.

Need of help to Missionaries.

Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

And, failing a suitable response from these, it may be worthy of thought whether, as in some other sections of the Church, distinguished for missionary zeal and success in the work, devoted laymen of tried Christian character and ability, might not be engaged and sent forth to the field of our Foreign Mission. Were such persons, while engaged in acquiring the language and becoming acquainted with the character and habits of the people and the work of the mission, to be entrusted to the special care of the missionary for theological instruction, there is all reason to believe, that, when fully prepared to enter on the work, they would, under the Divine blessing, be found suitable and successful labourers.

FUNDS.

Funds needed

Notwithstanding earnest appeals on the subject in former reports, the funds supplied by the Church for the support of this mission are inadequate. The School fund especially shows the greatest deficiency, as but a few of the congregations have yet sent forward any contribution for this object. One who has carefully inspected the amount of the annual income of this fund, and compared it with the number of communicants in the Church, has lately remarked that "*the subscription per member in our Church in Ireland to this mission is at an average just one farthing per week.*" Surely there is ground for no little blame here, while there is afforded the prospect, too, that with earnest and sustained effort, the mission funds might without any evident pressure, be largely increased. Let us learn to esteem it a privilege, as well as a primary duty, to spend and be spent in the service of the best of Masters; and as we pray daily, "Thy kingdom come," let us recognise our solemn personal obligation, by fervent prayer and consecrated effort, to hasten the blessed consummation—when the isles shall wait for the Redeemer's law, and all the ends of the earth shall see His salvation.

Some conversation was had in reference to an endeavour to get additional labourers for the Foreign Mission field. It was remitted to the Foreign Mission Committee to frame and bring up a resolution on the subject. A portion of a Psalm was given out to be sung, and the Rev. J. D. Houston was called upon to engage in prayer with reference to the Foreign Mission and the agents in the field.

Resolution, For. Miss.

A resolution was subsequently introduced by Professor Chancellor, seconded by Dr. Houston, and passed, *nem. diss.*—"That this Synod, in consideration of the need of the Antioch Mission, is fully resolved to send to Syria a second ordained missionary as soon as a suitable person can be found; and we also wish it to be known by all the Sessions and congregations of the Church that we would

gladly receive the offer of the services of some suitable and devoted person, male or female, to be sent to Antioch, to assist in the work of the mission there."

XV. The Report of the Colonial Mission was read by Mr. Brown. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Stavely, seconded by Mr. James Stewart, and passed, *nem. diss.* Report of Col. Mission.

The following is the Report :—

Colonial Mission Report.

During the past year we have had the usual amount of correspondence with our esteemed brother in Australia. In accordance with the instructions of Synod, we made the small annual remittance as heretofore, the receipt of which was gratefully acknowledged. The annual Report of the congregation of Geelong, which appears in the pages of *The Covenanter*, tells us of good, substantial work done by that congregation ; and, though at times "cast down," yet are they "not destroyed." Our communications for some time with Mr. Moore had reference to the education of one of his sons in Britain, with a view to the ministry of our Church ; but, as we have not yet been called upon to take any active part in this most desirable undertaking as a Church, we need not refer to it now, further than to say, we should rejoice in the prospect of the sons of the manse in that foreign land giving themselves to extend our Covenanted profession, where a father has been honoured to begin the work. And we are sure we may bespeak the sympathy and interest of the Church at home in this matter, in whatever way she can manifest it. The congregational history tells of the same fluctuations as heretofore, yet the life and strength good. But we must repeat the old complaint, that our missionary should be still left without the fellowship of a ministerial brother in the bonds of the same covenant. What a privilege we have at home, calling in the aid of a brother upon returning communions ! What sweet counsels, common sympathies, division of labour, are enjoyed in this way ! not to speak of the many other interchanges in the discharge of Church work, all which our brother is deprived of. No doubt the scarcity of ministers at home presents itself as the great difficulty, but we trust, in the providence of the Church's Head, our long waiting and calling will speedily be answered with the response, "Here am I, send me."

Geelong.

Mr. Moore alone.

The Covenanted Church, once planted, seems almost incapable of extinction, to her credit be it told, otherwise we should long ere this have heard of our little plantation in that land having been abandoned. But as we would use all the means in our power to relieve a brother

Report of Col. Mission.

struggling with temporal dis.ess, m: more she (we endeavour to relieve the exigencies of t. Church ; ed. and stretch out our hands after the sc and d/ ters who have been led away from the hallo ed surr ings of a Christian home. Maybe the fruits of our labours might be more clear and decided in that new land than in the old country, in the present spirit of the times. Anyhow, so far as the means are in our power, we must speak and say to each other, "Let us arise and build." The poor blind heathen, who never heard of the Saviour, stir our deepest sympathies, but are not the immense tides of practical heathenism, that have rolled up on those gold fields, also deserving of the deepest sympathy, and those well-taught members of our Church that still register themselves in hundreds as "Covenanters," but who are as sheep without a shepherd, deserving of our most devoted pursuit and search ?

N. B. & N. S.

Since our surrender of the Presbytery of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to the jurisdiction of our brethren of the United States Church, we have been greatly relieved; and, although we may not yet be able to report much more substantial progress to our common cause there than when the old relations subsisted, yet we are convinced the change was right, and our American brethren have been doing for the vacant congregations what we could not have done. One decision of acceptance of a call from Cornwallis and Horton has been made by Mr. M'Fall; and we are sure that that spirit of zeal and enterprise which characterizes our American brethren will exert itself in those Colonies where fathers have so nobly planted our standard.

Call accepted.

Grants.

We have been privileged to make some pecuniary contribution to the maintenance of ordinances there, and this may justify our continued notice in our Reports of a department of the Church from which, in a sense, we are parted. By order of Synod, we remitted £50 last year—*i.e.*, £20 to Mr. Lawson, and £30 to aid in giving the ordinances to the vacant congregations.

Dr. Milliken has written us during the year, asking that a grant of £20 should be made by us to supplement the support of the minister elect in the united congregation of Cornwallis and Horton. We laid this correspondence before our missionary board, and the mind of Commission was that we might accede to this request in the spirit of former decisions; the grant to be reduced however, from year to year, until in four or five years it would cease. We ask the Synod to confirm this grant, and also to direct what amount shall be allocated to assist in the dispensation of ordinances in the vacant congregations.

£20 has been remitted to Mr. Lawson on the 1st of May this year as heretofore. Report of Col. Mission.

The Rev. R. Stewart, after supplying vacancies throughout the States for a time, has returned to the Colonies, and the congregation of Wilmot has supplicated Presbytery for his services regularly during the coming year. Rev. R. Stewart.

We are sorry to say that Mr. Lawson writes under a growing consciousness of debility, and longs earnestly for a new accession of strength to the ministry in his bounds, before he is compelled to retire. Perhaps some may think we might now be relieved altogether of pecuniary charge for this field, and we have, as secretary, distinctly kept before the mind of our American brethren that it is only for a time that a portion of our small resources would flow in this channel. Yet surely we owe it to precious memories that cling to this field—we owe it to the brethren who have taken upon them a new and weighty responsibility—especially do we owe it to our exalted King and Head, whose is the earth, and whose shall be the earth in loyal subjection—to greet every opportunity of helping forward the final triumph of His cause. Some of our congregations have sent in their usual annual returns. Some have not sent in any collections as yet, but we hope to have the funds supplemented before the close of our account. Let us not think, if part of the field which fell to us in Divine Providence has now passed to the care of a sister Church, that thereby our obligations to contribute and work in the Colonial field are lessened. A wise apportionment of the field of the world by Christians, as joint-workers for the one glorious end, is one happy issue of a good understanding among the Churches. But still there are the "regions beyond," into which we should be pressing, when relieved in any measure of former fields. "There is yet much land to be possessed"—more than enough to tax all the energies of all the branches of Christ's Church. Instead of curtailing our contributions in any way, should they not be on an ever-increasing scale? and not by spasmodic efforts, but upon *system*, regular, rich, and sufficient, as the "early and latter rain." There is need, even in our Reformed Church, for a *reform* in convictions, measures, and manners in giving to the cause of Christ. Why, one congregation of our Church, by the aid of a working missionary association, gives us from year to year about one-sixth of all we receive from all the other congregations. Many have done well, but have we done what we could? Looking over the broader sea to the wide southern field of Australia, we would reiterate the cry for *men* as well as means. It has been well said, "The missionary's grave is far more honourable Mr. Lawson. Funds.

Report of Col. Mission.

than the minister's pulpit." With all our use of means, let us keep our hearts heavenward.

"O thou by whom the lost are found,
Whose cross upon the mountain stands,
When shall its shadow on the ground
Spread east and west thro' all the lands,
Until it wrap the world around?"

Adjourned with the benediction.

SESSION IV.

Wednesday, 22nd June, 10 o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed, Mr. Hurst conducting devotional exercises.

XVI. The discussion on the motion and amendment of yesterday morning (*vid ante*, Min. XIII.) was resumed. On a vote being taken by a show of hands, the amendment was carried.

Colonial Grants.

XVII. On motion of Professor Chancellor, seconded by Dr. Thompson, it was agreed to, *nem diss.*, that £20 be granted this year out of the Colonial Mission Fund to aid in the support of the minister of Cornwallis and Horton, N.S.; and £10, to aid in the supply of ordinances in the vacancies throughout the Presbytery of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Further, that, as in former years, a grant of £20 be made to the Rev. A. M. Moore, of Geelong, Australia.

Reports of Presbyteries.

XVIII. Reports of Presbyteries were called for and read as follows:—

Report of the Northern Presbytery.

Report of N. Presbytery

The Northern Presbytery begs to report, that at a meeting of the Court, held during the sessions of last Synod in Londonderry, Mr. Alexander Mogee, A.B., was licensed to preach the Gospel. He has since been labouring with acceptance within the bounds of the Church in Ireland, and also in the sister Church in Scotland.

Licence of A. Mogee, A.B

Since Synod rose last year, there have been four ordinary meetings, at which the usual routine of business was transacted.

Dispensation of Ordinances.

Ordinances, common and sealing, have been regularly dispensed in all the congregations; and stations under the inspection of the court, with gratifying evidence of good result. The injunctions of Synod in regard to services of thanksgiving and humiliation, and in regard to sermons on temperance, have been attended to.

Garvagh.

We are happy to report that the congregation of Garvagh is engaged in building a place of worship. An eligible

site has been obtained, and the work is in progress. We bespeak the sympathy of the Church on behalf of our brethren in Garvagh. They have sorely felt the want of a place of worship, and were much discouraged. They need help, and we cordially commend them and their cause to the liberal consideration of the people of God. Report of N. Presbytery.

Attention has been given to the requirement of Synod with regard to statistical returns from the congregations, and a full statement will be laid on the table of Synod. Statistical Returns.

The subject of the scheme for the establishment of a Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, was several times considered by the court, but we cannot as yet report any progress. Presbytery takes the warmest interest in the subject, and is resolved to prosecute it to a successful issue. Widows' and Orphans' fund

In the vacant congregation of Dervock, five new elders have been ordained, and one installed. We trust that this accession to the session may be the means, in the hands of the Head, of imparting new life to the congregation, and of advancing the interests of Christ's kingdom in the neighbourhood. Ordination of Elders, Dervock.

The Rev. J. D. Houston is nominated as a member of Commission for the ensuing year.

There is under the care of Presbytery, one student, Mr. M'Meekin M'Elwrath, who has completed two sessions at the Theological Hall.

R. J. MORRELL, Moderator.
J. D. HOUSTON, Clerk.

Report of Southern Presbytery.

Report of S. Presbytery.

The Southern Presbytery report that the usual number of meetings have been held, all characterized by the utmost harmony. The ordinances of Divine grace have been dispensed in our congregations and preaching stations, with the exception of Lisdonnan, in regard to which circumstances have prevented us giving it as much attention as formerly, and we ask the advice of Synod in respect to it.

Sermons on the subject of Temperance have been preached. Temperance.

The Congregational Aid Scheme, although receiving a measure of attention, does not progress so well as might be desired. Cong. Aid.

The Widow and Orphan Fund has been so recently launched that we are not prepared to make any full report on the manner in which it has worked, but for so far it promises to meet with a favourable reception. Wid. & Orph. Fund.

On the 3rd of May Mr. Samuel Ferguson, B.A., was Licence of Mr. Ferguson.

Report of S. Presbytery. licensed to preach the everlasting Gospel, and has since been labouring with much acceptance.

Student. There is under care of Presbytery at present Mr. John M'Clelland, Cromie, theological student.

Revs. G. Douglas and J. Frazer Hurst are nominated as members of Commission for the ensuing year.

W. S. FERGUSON, Moderator.
J. FRAZER HURST, Clerk.

Report of the Eastern Presbytery.

Report of E. Presbytery. The Eastern Presbytery report that, since last meeting of Synod, they have held seven meetings. The ordinances of religion have been dispensed and waited on as usual in our congregations. The days of Fasting and Thanksgiving have also been observed.

Temperance. From most or all of our pulpits the people have been instructed in the nature and necessity of the Temperance Reformation, the progress of the work, and the duty of ministers, elders, and people to do their utmost to advance it.

Liverpool. The Rev. W. J. Maxwell, pastor of our Liverpool congregation, and one of Synod's deputies to the last Pan-Presbyterian Council, has not yet returned to his flock, having availed himself of his mission to America to collect money to aid in liquidating a debt on the church buildings in Hall Lane. Presbytery did all in its power, cordially assisted by the other Presbyteries, to provide supplies for his pulpit in his absence. The supply was well kept up till lately, when, for five or six Sabbaths, it was found impossible to procure preachers.

Finances. There is little change to report, since last Synod, on the financial condition of our congregations. The Congregational Aid Scheme has been adopted in all our congregations, except one. The working of the scheme in any of our congregations, in regard to results, is not satisfactory. It was proposed to raise in aid an average of one penny per week. This, in the Eastern Presbytery, would amount to £322 17s 7d. The contributions, however, amount to only £99 17s 10d, equal to an average of four thirteenths of a penny, or a penny farthing per month, from rich and poor, for an object of so great importance to the welfare of our Zion.

Call to Prof. Chancellor. On the 9th of December a call was moderated in the Glasgow congregation, which issued in favour of the Rev. Professor Chancellor, of Belfast. The call, duly attested, was transmitted to this Presbytery, and, at a special meeting, sustained as a regular call, and time given to consider it. So soon, however, as Mr. Chancellor had

given the subject that consideration due to the importance of the question to be decided, he, through the Clerk of Presbytery, made his decision, not to sever the connexion that had so profitably and happily subsisted so many years between himself and the Belfast congregation—a decision that afforded great satisfaction both to the congregation and the Presbytery. Report of E. Presbytery.

Although we have not yet taken any action in the matter, the appeal of the "Committee of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund" has been received, and collecting books distributed. Widows' and Orphans' fund

The students under Presbytery's care are Messrs. Musgrave and Gillespie. Students.

JOSIAS A. CHANCELLOR, Moderator.
WILLIAM RUSSELL, Clerk.

Report of the Western Presbytery.

Report of W. Presbytery

The Western Presbytery report that, since last meeting of Synod, they have held six meetings—two at the call of Moderator; three at the stated times; and one, *pro re nata*.

At the first of these, which was held on the 19th of August, extracts from the minutes of the Synod's Commission in the Convoy case were submitted, from which it appeared that it had seemed good to the Commission to restore the Rev. J. W. Mackeown to the exercise of the ministry, and the congregation of Convoy to its former status in the Church, on their acquiescing in the action of the Commission in regard to them. They were, at the same time, transferred to the care and jurisdiction of the Presbytery. In view of all the circumstances, Presbytery saw no course open to them but to appoint Mr. Mackeown constant supply at Convoy. At the next regular meeting of Presbytery on the 3rd of November, the congregation petitioned for moderation in a call, and this was granted conditionally. Renewing their petition at the next stated meeting on the 2nd of February, it was granted unconditionally, and the 17th of that month appointed for the moderation. This issued unanimously in favour of their former minister; and, at a meeting held on the 2nd of March, it was presented and accepted. The 16th of March was appointed for the installation, and on that day it was accomplished. Convoy Case.

At a meeting on the 3rd of November, the Rev. Matthew Neill intimated that he had determined to secede from the communion of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and asked for such credentials as we could give him. Presbytery Secession of Rev. M. Neill.

Report of W. Presbytery

loosed him from his charge of the Faughan congregation, and gave him credentials adapted to the circumstances.

Since then Presbytery has supplied Faughan with half time preaching. They desire more; but, owing to the lack of probationers, even this has been found rather a heavy tax on the ministers and the other congregations.

State of Religion.

The days of thanksgiving and humiliation appointed by Synod have been observed; the collections for the various schemes of the Church have been generally taken up; and the manner in which the means of grace has been dispensed and waited on, if not all that could be desired, yet seems indicative of religious life.

The Rev. W. Scott and the Rev. C. K. Toland are nominated as members of the Commission of Synod for the ensuing year.

C. K. TOLAND, Moderator.
R. NEVIN, Clerk.

Report in Convoy Case.

XIX. The Report of the Commission of Synod in the Convoy case was read by the Convener, as follows:—

"Convoy Meeting-House, 11th August, 1880.

"The Commission in the Convoy case met, and was constituted with prayer by the Convener.

"MEMBERS PRESENT:—

"Rev. William Russell, Convener.
" Isaac Thompson, LL.D.
" Alexander Savage.
" William Dick.
" William Scott.

"1. The constitution was read, and the Convener called the attention of the court to the business before it, viz., to carry out the instructions of Synods. The solemn business committed to the Commission was proceeded with immediately.

The Cong. restored.

"The people who worshipped in the meeting-house at Convoy and received ministrations in word and sacraments from W. J. Mackeown acknowledged the irregularity of the course pursued by them, and were, on admonition, restored to their former standing as a part of the Reformed Presbyterian Congregation of Convoy. They were then, in accordance with the understanding settled in Synod, handed over to the care and jurisdiction of the Western Presbytery, that incorporated with the part of the congregation which had all the time been under Presbytery's jurisdiction, both might unitedly and harmoniously co-operate in every good work.

"2. Mr. Mackeown having, in accordance with the resolution of Synod, tabled his credentials, and acknowledged the grave irregularity of his course toward and position among the people at Convoy, and insubordination to the courts of the Church; and having submitted to be censured by the Commission, was, on censure being publicly administered, received as a minister of the Reformed Presbyterian Church without charge; and, with his own consent, was placed under the care and jurisdiction of the Western Presbytery of said Church. Report in Convoy Case. Mr. Mackeown restored.

The Commission before it restored Mr. Mackeown made a solemn appeal to the congregation to which he had so long ministered, that, if they knew of anything in his manner of life inconsistent with the ministerial character, or calculated to impede his ministerial usefulness, they would then reveal it, or be ever after silent. Mr. Scott was appointed to exchange pulpits with Mr. Mackeown, in order to read this finding publicly to the congregation of Convoy. The Commission was adjourned with prayer.

"WILLIAM RUSSELL, Convener."

It was moved by Mr. Russell, seconded by Dr. Thompson, and agreed to, *nem diss.*, That the Report be received, and the Committee discharged.

XX. It was moved by Dr. Thompson, seconded by Professor Chancellor, and agreed to, *nem diss.*, That the stations of Lisdonnan and Dromore remain for the current year as in the past, in respect to the grant from the Congregational Aid Scheme; and that the Southern Presbytery be requested to make special inquiry as to the expediency of continuing the grants. Lisdonnan and Dromore.

Further, that the cases of Magherafelt and Cloughmills be referred in like manner to the Northern Presbytery. M:Felt and Cloughmills.

Adjourned with the benediction.

SESSION V.

Wednesday, 22nd June, 7 o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed, devotional exercises being conducted by the Rev. J. Brown.

XXI. The deputation from the Scottish Synod was introduced by the Rev. A. M. Stavely. Sc. Deput. heard.

Mr. John M'Donald and the Rev. James Dick, M.A., successively addressed the court.

At the close of their addresses the following resolution, proposed by Professor Chancellor, and seconded by Mr. Douglas was passed unanimously:—

"That this Synod has heard with much satisfaction the able and stirring addresses of the brethren from the Scotch Synod—that we Resolution.

Resolution. appreciate highly the strong sentiments they have expressed on the importance of maintaining and defending the great articles of our evangelical faith and the distinctive principles of the Second Reformation—that we heartily sympathize with the Sister Church in Scotland in their various efforts to promote Scriptural doctrine and the testimony of Christ that has been committed to our trust, and would gladly co-operate in any general movement that might give greater prominence to this testimony, and we hereby request the moderator to convey to the deputies the cordial thanks of this Synod."

Deputation appointed. The moderator, Dr. Houston, and Mr. Adam M'Neilly, ruling elder, were appointed the deputation to the Scottish Synod next year.

Report of Cong. Aid. XXII. The annual Report of The Congregational Aid Scheme was read by Mr. Reid, the Secretary. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Boyd, seconded by Mr. Galway, and passed, *nem. diss.*

The following is the Report :—

Report of Congregational Aid Committee.

State of the Funds. The Congregational Aid Committee have to report that circulars were issued as usual for the two collections. Eighteen congregations responded to both calls, and fourteen to only one call. Nine congregations have increased their contributions by an aggregate sum of £13 15s 1d. Three congregations have become contributaries this year which gave nothing last year. These send forward a sum of £7 12s 6d, making an increase of £21 7s 7d. Eighteen congregations have reduced their contributions by a sum of £26 1s 1½d. Two congregations, which last year sent forward £11 7s 4d, have made no return up to the present, making a total decrease of £37 8s 5½d—deduct increase, £21 7s 7d, leaving a nett decrease on congregational returns of £16 0s 10½d. The income of the fund this year is as follows :—

Balance from last year, ...	£20	9	0½
Congregational collections, &c.,...	263	1	11½
Interest, ...	37	10	0
Amount received late for last year's account, ...	2	10	0
	£323	11	0

Compared with last year the

Balance was, ...	£14	4	3
Collections, &c., ...	286	14	2
Interest, ...	37	10	0
	£338	8	5

Report of Cong. Aid.

The amount at the disposal of the Committee, after paying permanent grants of £76, and £9 6s 1d of expenses, is £238 4s 11d. This will be sufficient to supplement the stipend in aid-receiving congregations to £93 for the present year, leaving a small balance in the hands of the treasurer.

Ballylane and Ballyclare.

Two congregations came under the new rule adopted by Synod last year, requiring 15s per member of stipend as a qualification for participating in the benefits of the fund—viz., Ballylane and Ballyclare. A deputation went to Ballyclare and brought the matter before the congregation. The deputy was cordially received, and afterwards informed that, at a meeting held later on the same day, it was resolved to make an effort to raise the amount required. The Convener wrote to Ballylane, offering to send a deputation, if the congregation so desired, to bring the subject specially before them. Your Committee were greatly pleased to be informed that the matter would be attended to without the trouble and expense of a deputation. The income of these congregations has been reckoned at 15s per member—viz., Ballyclare, ninety-four members, £70 10s stipend; Ballylane, 114 members, £85 10s stipend, thus slightly reducing their claim upon the fund. The Committee have agreed to count £10 as the equivalent of a manse in all aid-receiving congregations; thus a congregation having a manse will receive £10 per annum less out of the fund than those which have no manse.

Liberality not growing.

The Committee had hoped that, with the increased prosperity of the past year, this fund would have indicated a growing liberality on the part of the Church; but such has not been the case. While, perhaps, the abundance of last year's crops was partially required to meet old demands, yet God's people should have shown gratitude for past favours, by returning a liberal tithe to Him who crowned the year liberally with His goodness. Other reasons may, however, have operated against the fund as much as the want of liberality. It is not clear that congregations have set before them the necessity or desirability of doing more than they have been doing in the way of attaining the average of four shillings per member annually. Had a united effort been made, surely greater results would have been reached in some instances. If ministers would give the fund a cordial and hearty encouragement, induce a few young people to meet with the elders and deacons, encourage them to take districts and collect the subscriptions twice a-year, the success of the fund would soon result. The Committee have no means of knowing to what extent the mode of collection

Report of Cong. Aid.

ordered by Synod has been adopted, but it is fea- many congregations are satisfied with simply taking special collection on the Sabbath, instead of issuing collecting books, as Synod requires; and this collection, in many instances, is only taken up once a-year. It is very evident that the congregations which take up two collections raise far more money, in proportion to their number and means, than those which only take up one. People will give, in many instances, if asked; and if not asked, they will simply allow the occasion to pass.

Small Congregations more liberal.

If contributions in large congregations had reached the standard of liberality obtained in the smaller congregations, the average stipend might have been brought up to at least £110, which would have benefitted a great many congregations, which, up to the present, have not received any advantage from the change in this fund. Many, it is feared, refuse to give because they get nothing in return. They might see that such a course is not only selfish, but the very way to prevent the fund from ever being able to benefit them. If they would give liberally now, and encourage others to give, it would, like good seed sown in good ground, give them a return, it may be in some cases thirty, sixty, or even an hundred fold. "Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days."

Bequest of Miss Adams.

The late Miss Adams, of Aldohill, who was a generous supporter of the Church during her life-time, left, by her will, £100 for the benefit of this fund, which has been invested by Synod's Trustees, increasing our annual income by £5.

In conclusion, your Committee hope that all will unite in one vigorous effort to realize, during the coming year, a nearer approximation—to £120 for every minister of the Church—than ever yet reached. Such a sum is quite within the power of the Church to give, and quite small enough to enable a minister to devote his whole time and talents to the work of his Master.

P.S.—Since the report was submitted to Synod, the treasurer has received over £10, which he has included in his financial statement, making the balance on hand £17 11s 5½d.

Adjourned with the benediction.

SESSION VI.

Thursday, 23rd June, 10 o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed, Rev. James Dick conducting devotional exercises.

Mr. Stavely to publish Sermon.

XXII. On motion by Mr. Douglas, Mr. Stavely was unanimously requested to publish his discourse at the opening of Synod, and kindly consented.

XXIV. It was moved by Mr. Toland, seconded by Mr. Allen, that the Manchester fund should be given to the Liverpool congregation, to assist in liquidating the debt resting on their house of worship. Manchester Fund.

Moved as an amendment by Mr. Savage, seconded by Mr. Henry, that this grant be not made at present.

Mr. Brown moved the previous question, seconded by Mr. James Stewart, which was carried by a show of hands.

Resolved, that a grant of the same amount as last year, viz., £40, be made to the Liverpool congregation from the Congregational Aid funds. Grant to Liverpool.

XXV. On motion of Dr. Houston, the following resolution was passed, *nem diss.*, viz. :— Distinctive Testimony.

"This Synod, regarding it as an important duty, specially called for at the present time, to make known more widely the Church's distinctive testimony in reference to fundamental evils in the British Constitution, and to recent steps of national defution, consider it therefore obligatory upon them, to adopt such measures as may appear suitable to accomplish this object, and appoint a committee of this Synod to act in conjunction with a like committee of our brethren of the Scottish Synod to devise a plan for carrying into accomplishment this object."

The committee appointed in accordance with this resolution consists of the following members :—Rev. G. Douglas, (convener), Professor Chancellor, Dr. Thompson, Rev. R. A. M'Farlane, Mr. W. J. Galway.

XXVI. Mr. Lyons read a Report on the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Chancellor, seconded by Mr. Boyd, and passed, *nem diss.* Report on Wid. & Orph. Fund.

The following is the report :—

Report of the Committee on the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

Your committee have to report that they have had two meetings during the past year. In the month of April a collecting book accompanied with a circular was sent to all congregations of the Church. In the circular, ministers were requested to bring the matter before their congregations in some practical way before the meeting of Synod. This was not found to be convenient in all cases; but where the scheme has been fairly introduced, even under circumstances not the most favourable, the result in general has been of a most satisfactory nature. In a number of congregations the success has far exceeded our very highest expectations. Prospect good

Notwithstanding dull trade and scanty harvests the scheme has met with a most gratifying reception, a reception that publishes to the world the superior liberality of our people, and is a testimony that their religion is genuine, pure and undefiled.

With respect to the proposal of the lady in Manchester

Report on Wid. & Orph. Fund.

to contribute £100, on condition that nine others would do likewise, as yet we have not been able to secure the full complement; but, considering the interest manifested in the fund, we have a good hope that this number will soon be realized.

Another very pleasing announcement has been made by a gentleman in Portrush. Besides readily consenting to supply one of the nine hundreds, he has intimated that he will contribute £100 for every £900 the Church raises.

Besides these sums mentioned, smaller sums of a very handsome nature have been subscribed.

Committee have appointed a sub-committee to prepare rules to regulate this fund. These your committee will carefully consider, and have in readiness to place before Synod at next meeting; and we feel confident they shall be such as shall give general satisfaction.

A. S. LYONS, Convener.

Committee on Fund.

The committee appointed last year to originate the fund was re-appointed with the addition of Mr. S. Patton, of Portrush, and with instructions to decide on some fundamental regulations for the administration—to meet at 5 o'clock this evening, and subsequently, as they may see cause, and report to Synod at next meeting.

The Committee thus appointed consists of the following members:—Revs. A. S. Lyons, (convener), A. M. Stavely, Dr. Houston, J. A. Chancellor, Dr. Thompson, G. Douglas, T. Boyd, J. Brown, R. A. M'Farlane, C. K. Toland, R. Nevin; Messrs. J. A. Cunningham, D. Clements, H. Cheyne, J. Potts, T. Henry, S. Patton.

Causes of Thanksgiving and Fasting.

XXVII. The publication of a summary of causes of thanksgiving and humilitation was left in the hands of a Committee, consisting of Revs. J. Brown, J. Hart, and J. D. Houston.

The Rev. J. Martin and the Moderator were appointed the Committee to draw up a summary of causes for next year.

Days to be observed.

The last Thursday of November was appointed to be observed as the day of annual Thanksgiving; and the last Thursday of January, 1882, as the day of annual Humiliation.

Commission appointed.

XXVIII. The Commission of Synod was appointed, consisting of the following members:—The Moderator, Revs. J. Brown, J. Thompson, LL.D., J. F. Hurst, G. Douglas, T. Houston, D.D., J. A. Chancellor, W. Russell, C. K. Toland, W. Scott, R. Nevin, (*clerk*); Messrs. James Stewart, W. J. Galway, W. Reid, T. Henry. To meet on the second Wednesday of November, and the second Wednesday of March, 1882.

XXIX. The Committee of Superintendence of the Theological Hall was appointed, consisting of Revs. J. Brown, Dr. Thompson, J. D. Houston, G. Douglas, W. Russell, J. F. Hurst, W. Scott, R. Nevin, (*convener.*) To meet on the second Tuesday of November, and the first Tuesday of March, 1882. Com. Superin. Hall.

XXX. The following were added to the Committee on the Foreign and Jewish Mission, viz.:—Revs. T. Boyd, J. F. Hurst, Dr. Thompson; Messrs. H. Cheyne, W. W. Houston. Committee For. Miss.

XXXI. Revs. J. Brown, and C. K. Toland were added to the number of the Administrators of the Education Fund. Adm. Education Fund.

XXXII. The Clerk reported that the collection for the expenses of the delegates to the meeting in Philadelphia, of the Council of the Presbyterian Alliance, after paying each of them £25, showed a balance on the credit side of £4. It was resolved that this balance should be transferred to the credit of the Hall and Synod Fund. Coll. for Deleg. to Pres. Alliance.

XXXIII. Rev. W. Russell was appointed President of the Synodical Temperance Association. Pres. Temp. Assoc.

XXXIV. Mr. Mackeown made application for assistance —£25 for each of two years—to the congregation of Convoy, out of the Congregational Aid Fund. Aid asked for Convoy and Dervock.

This, and a previous application for £20 on behalf of Dervock congregation, were referred to the Commission of Synod, at its next meeting, should the applications be made in the regular way, that is, by memorial, endorsed with the recommendation of the Presbytery of the bounds in each case.

Adjourned with the benediction.

SESSIONS VII.

Thursday, 23rd June, 7 o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed, Mr. M'Donald conducting devotional exercises.

XXXV. The letter which had been sent to the American Synod was read. No reply had been received as yet. For. Corresp.

XXXVI. The Temperance Report was read by the Secretary. Its adoption was read by the Rev. John Martin, seconded by Mr. M'Donald, and passed, *nem diss.* The following is the Report:— Report on Temperance.

Report on Temperance, 1881.

The cause of temperance has continued to make good progress in the councils of the nation during the past year. The people of Wales have expressed themselves with remarkable unanimity in favour of a Bill for the Prospects of Lord's Day Bill for Eng. and Wales.

Report on Temperance.

closing of public-houses on the Lord's day throughout the principality. As was to be expected this Bill has encountered very little opposition in the House of Commons and is likely soon to become the law. A similar bill has been introduced for England, and is gathering to itself the powerful support of the several Churches, and of the friends of temperance and prohibition. But as the interests involved in the liquor traffic in England are so immense, the measure is not likely to be carried without a severe and prolonged struggle. It is however, a hopeful symptom of the advance of public opinion, that Sir. W. Lawson's motion on behalf of Local Option has been passed this year with an increased majority.

Decline of Nat. Expend.

The national expenditure for intoxicating drinks still continues to decline. The total amount for last year, was £122,279,272, which is less by £5,864,588 than it was in the previous year. If this steady diminution for some years past could be ascribed to the influence of increased education, the power which the several Churches are putting forth in the denunciation of the liquor traffic, and the promotion of bands of hope and of total abstinence associations among their numbers, and to the direct and sustained action of the different temperance organizations, it would be a cause of devout thankfulness to God, and should encourage the hearts and strengthen the hands of all who are earnestly labouring in this most important work. But while, no doubt, all these agencies have contributed to the beneficial and hopeful result, and a sound public opinion is being rapidly developed throughout the country in opposition to the nefarious drink system, yet we cannot assign the whole improvement that is being realized to so excellent a source. The amount expended on strong drink has generally fallen or risen with the prosperity of the country. The last four years has been a period of general depression. We have only to recall the reverses that have been sustained in agriculture, in manufactures, and in trade to understand that no class in the community had the same money to expend as in preceding years. If this has been the principal cause of the diminished expenditure, we may justly tremble to think of the possible rebound in the event of returning prosperity. This, however, should stimulate us to increased and more prayerful exertions in awakening in the conscience of all members of the Church a deep sense of the sin and ruinous effects of indulgence in the use of intoxicating drinks, and in diffusing a knowledge of the extent and disastrous effects of their common use upon the community.

While ready to indulge in congratulations on the yearly

Report on Temperance.

diminishing expenditure of a few millions on a traffic that is so fatal to the happiness, the morals, and the resources of the kingdom, it will be well to keep before our minds the height to which it rises even in times of greatest depression, that we may be thoroughly imbued with a sense of the immensity and enormity of the evil that still continues to prey upon us. From the recently published excise returns, Mr. William Hoyle has prepared an abstract for the year 1880.

Compar. table 1879 & 1880.

The following table gives particulars of the quantities used, together with the money expended thereon. To enable a comparison to be made, I append the expenditure for 1879 :—

			1880.		1879.
Beer consumed	905,088,278	gals., ..	£67,881,673	..	£73,557,609
British spirits consumed ..	28,457,486	,, ..	28,457,486	..	27,936,650
Foreign spirits consumed ..	8,477,512	,, ..	10,173,014	..	11,449,021
Wine	15,852,335	,, ..	14,267,102	..	13,450,588
British wines &c. (est.) ..	15,000,000	,, ..	15,000,000	..	1,750,000
			£122,279,275		£128,143,863

Showing a decrease in consumption as compared with 1879 of £5,864,588, or 4·6 per cent.

Twenty years ago, in 1860, the Drink Bill was £86,897,683. Year by year, with two or three trifling exceptions, it continued to grow, until in 1876 it reached the enormous total of£147,288,760. In 1877 it fell to £142,009,231 ; in 1878 it rose a little, being £142,188,900; since 1878 it has fallen.

Let us compare one feature of the land question and the liquor question.

Comparisons and Averages.

In Great Britain, according to Mr. Caird, the average rent of agricultural land is estimated at 30s per acre. In Ireland, from returns which are issued by Government, it appears to be about 15s per acre. In Great Britain there are 32,101,909 acres returned as cultivated land, which at 30s gives £48,152,863 ; in Ireland, 15,357,856 acres, which at 15s gives £11,518,392, giving a total of £59,671,255. Comparing these figures with the figures of the Drink Bill, it will be seen that even with the reductions which have taken place during the last three or four years in our Drink Bill, it yet more than doubled the entire rental of all the agricultural land in the United Kingdom. In Ireland, which is almost entirely agricultural, and where there is so much deplorable destitution, the rental of the land amounts to £11,518,392; but during the ten years ending 1879, the people of Ireland spent on an average £13,828,102 each year in intoxicating liquors,

Report on Temperance.

or £2,307,210 more than the entire land rental of the country. This calculation takes no cognizance of the indirect losses resulting from drinking, which would add at least several millions to the amount given; thus making the cost of alcoholic liquors to Ireland, notwithstanding its poverty, probably double the rent roll of all its agricultural land. It will need no superior intellect to see that if a reduction of the rent burden would prove so highly beneficial, even greater would be the benefits which would result from the abolition of the drink burden, which is more than double the entire rent roll of all the land in the country, and it shows, too, how contrary to reason it is that the House of Commons should devote so much time to the lesser question, and none to that which is so very much greater.

Other Comparisons.

Many other comparisons might be made equally mortifying, common to both islands, for Ireland does not spend more than her share in drink; nay, she spends considerably less than her share, and by comparison with the English and the Scotch, the Irish may be called a temperate people. For the whole population of these isles the average expenditure in drink is more than £3 a head for every man, woman, and child, and more than £15 for each family. It is vastly more than the public revenue; vastly more than the most inflated and extraordinary expenditure we have had for twenty years. It is more than ten times as much as is spent in relief of the poor. As for the revenue of the Church of England, which may be called monstrous, if it were brought to the hammer to-morrow, glebes, rent-charges, parsonages, churches, episcopal and capitular incomes, everything down to the church furniture and parish stock of vestments, it would hardly fetch the amount of last year's Drink Bill. Twenty millions seems a heavy bill to pay for the Afghan war; but if the whole British nation could be of one mind and abstain from strong drink for two months, that would just balance the account. One month's abstinence would pay for the Abyssinian war, stupendous as the cost appeared.

Extract from *Times*.

To illustrate the state of public feeling with regard to this question, the perplexity, the shame and the alarm it occasions in all quarters, we extract the following from a leading article in the *Times*:—With regard to the main question, the natural Drink Bill, and the prevalence of excessive and extravagant drinking, unnecessary if not worse, every Englishman must feel sore and anxious about it. Drinking baffles us, confounds us, shames us, and mocks us at every point. It outwits alike the teacher, the man of business, the patriot, and the legislator. Every other

institution flounders in hopeless difficulties; the public-house holds its triumphant course. The administrators of public and private charity are told that alms and oblations go with rates, doles, and pensions to the all-absorbing bar of the public-house. But the worst remains. Not a year passes in either town or village without some unexpected and hideous scandal, the outcome of habitual indulgence, often small in its origin. Some poor creature, long and deservedly high in the respect, perhaps reverence, of the neighbourhood, makes a sudden shipwreck of character. Under the accumulating influence of alcohol, aggravated perhaps by other still more powerful, still more treacherous agencies, the honest man turns knave, the respectable man suddenly loses principle and self-respect, the wise man is utterly foolish, the rigidly moral man forgets his mask and his code and takes a plunge into libertinism. It then turns out, what possibly some have suspected, that drink is at the bottom of it, and that some poor wife or other friend has long been doing the best that could be done to check, to cure, and at all events to hide, till the truth would be out. Of course, on such occasions rivals and competitors in the race of life are not to be denied their paltry triumph. It would be much more to the purpose to take the warning, and do something towards staying the huge mischief, which, in one way or another, confounds us all, and may, for we cannot be sure, crush and ruin any one of us. Report on Temperance.

While the nation is agonizing in the coils of this deadly serpent, the Churches are arousing themselves with unwonted earnestness and unanimity to meet the emergency, and are nobly advancing to the rescue. That Church must be utterly dead to the duty it owes to Christ, to the souls of men, and to the interests of our country, which can wrap itself up in sluggish indifference and remain silent on the temperance question at such a time as this. Whatever other claim it may possess, inaction with regard to this predominant vice, indicates a state of rottenness at the core; and there is much reason to apprehend the sentence that fell upon the barren fig-tree, "Cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground?" This Synod should seek to compensate for the want of political and social influence by being able to unite the consistent and intelligent forces of the whole Church in favour of temperance, and by standing ready among the foremost on all occasions, to come to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Efforts in Churches.

The usual circular was sent at the end of the year to all the ministers, reminding them of Synod's appointment, that a special sermon should be preached on the subject. Some of the Presbyteries are careful to inquire as to the fulfilment of this appointment, and as to what other steps are being Annual Sermon.

Report on Temperance.

taken in the several congregations to keep up and extend a vigorous interest in this cause. It must have been with a feeling of shame and indignation not easily expressed. that the members of the Church found it reported in the newspapers of the province, that in the bounds of one of our Presbyteries, after the solemn services of an installation, there was the public drinking of political toasts, and that with intoxicating liquors. The event was unique as well as startling and disgraceful, and has been promptly and publicly condemned by the Presbytery under whose jurisdiction it occurred. It is not enough to say that such a thing should not have been possible in the Covenanting Church—it should not have been once named among us as becometh saints. "If the salt have lost it savour, wherewith shall it be salted?"

Resolutions.

The following series of Resolutions, proposed by Dr. Houston, were accepted, *nem. diss.* :—

"1. While, as a Synod, we cordially rejoice in the continued diminution of the national expenditure for intoxicating liquors, it is yet cause of deep humiliation and alarm that so much money is wasted in sustaining a system so demoralizing and ruinous.

"2. The Church, by her testimony, and by the consistent, holy lives of her members, is under the most solemn obligation to oppose and condemn all the practices that minister to the support of this evil system

"3. That we mark, with the strongest disapprobation, the practice publicly reported that, after installation services, at the dinner given to members of Presbytery, ordinary toasts were drunk in intoxicating liquors; and solemnly enjoin the ministers, elders, and people, under the care of Synod, to refrain wholly from giving the smallest countenance to a practice that presents an example, which is, in every respect, most injurious.

"4. We earnestly exhort the officers and members of the Church to be themselves examples of Scriptural temperance in their whole deportment, and in every relation; and, by proper organization and persevering effort, to labour to promote the efficiency and extension of the temperance cause.

"5. Finally, the Synod enjoins it upon all the ministers, by preaching annual sermons, the circulation of temperance tracts, and the careful instruction of the young in the principles of temperance; to labour in their places, as they are accountable to the Head of the Church, to have the whole Church freed from all complicity with the drink system, and exhibited as a faithful witness on behalf of true, Scriptural temperance."

Report on Pres. Alliance Meeting.

XXXVII. The Rev. J. Brown. one of the delegates to the Council of the Presbyterian Alliance at its recent meeting in Bhiladelphia, U.S., reported respecting the meeting. The following Resolution, proposed by Professor Chancellor, and seconded by Mr. Stavely, was unanimously adopted :—

Resolution.

"That we have heard with much gratification the report of the Rev. James Brown, one of the delegates of this Synod to the Pan-Presbyterian Council, of the meeting of the Alliance in Philadelphia—hat we are thankful to God for preserving him and his brother

delegate, Mr. Maxwell, in their journeyings by sea and land—that we approve of the position taken up by our deputies, in concert with the Reformed Presbyterian and United Presbyterian Churches in America, in resolving to withdraw from the Council if required to set aside the Psalms of Scripture in the worship of God—and that we resolve to do what we can to promote the objects of the Council, so long as we are permitted to do so in accordance with our testimony on behalf of sound doctrine and purity of worship."

Vote of Thanks.

XXXVIII. Mr. Douglas moved, and Mr. Scott seconded a vote of thanks to the Belfast congregation, for their very great kindness to the members of Synod at its present meeting. This was passed by acclamation.

Final Adjournment.

The minutes of the various sederunts were read and confirmed; and at ten o'clock, *p.m.*, the proceedings were brought to a close with prayer by the Moderator—Synod thus standing adjourned till the Monday after the second Sabbath in June, 1882.

Attested by

R. NEVIN, Synod Clerk.

Synodical Officers.

APPENDIX.

SYNODICAL OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, &c.

Moderator.

Rev. A. S. LYONS, Newry.

Clerk.

Rev. ROBERT NEVIN, Londonderry.

Professors.

Systematic Theology—Rev. Josias A. Chancellor, Belfast.

Eccles. Hist., Past. Theol. and Criticism—
Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.

Trustees of Synod's Funds.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener*	Mr. James Meharg
Mr. Hugh Cheyne	,, James Cunningham
,, William Reid	

General Treasurer.

James Meharg, 25, Queen-street, Belfast.

Auditors.

Mr. Samuel Aikin. | Mr. James Reynolds.

Administrators of Education Fund.

Dr. Houston, *Convener*	Rev. J. A. Chancellor
Rev. A. Savage	,, R. Nevin
,, J. Brown	,, C. K. Toland

Secretaries of the Schemes of the Church.

Colonial Mission—Rev. James Brown, Ballymoney.
Foreign and Jewish Mission—Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.
Theological Hall—Rev. Robert Nevin, Londonderry.
Congregational Aid—Mr. William Reid, Newtownards.

N.B.—These Secretaries act also as Treasurers for their respective Schemes.

Commission

Commission of Synod.

The Moderator

Rev. J. Brown	Rev. J. A. Chancellor
,, I. Thompson, LL.D.	,, W. Russell
,, J. F. Hurst	,, R. Nevin, *Clerk*
,, G. Douglas	Mr. James Stewart
,, T. Houston, D.D.	,, W. J. Galway
,, C. K. Toland	,, William Reid
,, W. Scott	,, Thomas Henry

Temp. Assoc.

TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

President—Rev. W. Russell | Secretary—Rev. J. A. Chancellor

Committees.

COMMITTEE OF SUPERINTENDENCE OF THEOLOGICAL HALL.

The Moderator.

Rev. W. Russell	Rev. J. F. Hurst
,, James Brown	,, J. D. Houston
,, W. Scott	,, G. Douglas
,, Dr. Thompson	,, R. Nevin, *Convener*

Committees.

COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL AID SCHEME.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Treasurer*	Mr. W. Reid, *Convener*
,, J. F. Hurst	,, T. Henry
,, J. D. Houston	,, John Aiken
,, C. K. Toland	,, A. Tait

COMMITTEE ON DISTINCTIVE TESTIMONY.

Rev. G. Douglas, *Convener*	Rev. R. A. M'Farlane
,, J. A. Chancellor	Mr. W. J. Galway
,, Dr. Thompson	

COMMITTEE ON WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

Rev. A. S. Lyons, *Convener*	Rev. C. K. Toland
,, A. M. Stavely	,, R. Nevin
,, Dr. Houston	Mr. J. A. Cunningham
,, J. A. Chancellor	,, D. Clements
,, Dr. Thompson	,, H. Cheyne
,, G. Douglas	,, J. Potts
,, T. Boyd	,, T. Henry
,, J. Brown	,, S. Patton
,, R. A. M'Farlane	

COMMITTEE ON CAUSES OF THANKSGIVING AND FASTING.

Rev. J. Martin, *Convener*	Rev. A. S. Lyons

DEPUTATION TO THE SCOTCH SYNOD.

The Moderator

Dr. Houston	Mr. Adam M'Neilly

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSION.

The Moderator	Rev. G. Douglas
Rev. J. D. Houston, B.A.	,, R. Nevin
,, J. A. Chancellor	,, Dr. Thompson
,, J. Brown	,, Dr. Houston, *Convener*
,, T. Boyd	Mr. H. Cheyne
,, J. F. Hurst	,, W. W. Houston

COMMITTEE ON CODE OF DISCIPLINE.

Rev. W. Russell	Rev. G. Douglas
,, J. Brown	,, J. A. Chancellor
,, I. Thompson	,, J. D. Houston, *Convener*

SYNODICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Synodical Appointments

COLLECTION for Foreign and Jewish Mission,—1st Sabbath, December.
,, Hall Fund, ...1st Sabbath, February.
,, Colonial Mission,.....1st Sabbath, April.
,, Synodical & Incidental Fund, 1st Sabbath, August.
,, Congregational Aid, by cards in May and October.

The Theological Hall opens in Belfast on Tuesday, 8th Nov., 1881.
Closes, Tuesday, 7th March, 1882.

The Commission meets in Belfast on Wednesday, 9th Nov., 1881, and Wednesday, 8th March, 1882.

Day of Public Thanksgiving, Thursday, 24th November, 1881.

Day of Public Fasting, Thursday, 26th January, 1882.

Annual Meeting of Synod, in Belfast, on Monday, 12th June, 1882, at Seven o'clock, p.m.

MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERIES.

Times of Presbyteries' Meeting.

NORTHERN—First *Wednesday* in February, May, August, and Nov.
SOUTHERN—First *Tuesday* in February, May, August, and November.
EASTERN—First *Wednesday* in Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct., and Dec.
WESTERN—First *Wednesday* in February, May, August and November

Statistics of Congregations.

CONGREGATIONS	Number of Elders	Number of Deacons or Committee	Number of Communicants	Average Attendance at Public Worship	Number of Sabbath Schools	Number of Teachers	Number of Bible Classes	Stipend Paid
Bailiesmills ..	4	14	100	100	1	10	4	£82 0 0
Ballenon ..	5	12	191	200	1	6	6	84 5 6
Ballybay ..	9	12	200	200			1	100 0 0
Ballyclare ..	5	10	92	80	1		1	55 0 0
Ballylaggan ..	10	9	210	300	1	6	3	120 0 0
Ballylane ..	3	6	98	80	1	4	2	75 0 0
Ballymoney ..	8	8	200	250	1	8	8	120 0 0
Belfast ..	10	14	400	500	3	76	35	285 0 0
Bready ..	7	6	146	135				125 0 0
Cloughmills ..	1	3	7	40	1			7 10 0
Coleraine ..	7	14	132	140	1	3	2	100 0 0
Convoy ..	4	2	27	40				
Dervock ..	4	5	127	150				100 0 0
Donegal ..			10	40				17 0 0
Drimbolg ..	9	13	224	242	1	8	6	130 0 0
Dromara .	7	24	500	350	3			150 0 0
Dromore ..	2		22	40	1	3		8 0 0
Fairview ..	2	4	31	36			1	33 10 0
Faughan ..	3	4	140	150	1	3	3	100 0 0
Garvagh ..	4	6	82	90			1	55 5 0
Grange ..	5	7	45	50	1	1	1	46 0 0
Kellswater ..	9	11	187	120				100 0 0
Killinchy ..	5	2	49	45			1	65 0 0
Kilraughts ..	10	6	210	250				130 0 0
Knockbracken ..	7	7	192	210	1	5	4	100 0 0
Larne ..	1	2	13	20				9 16 0
Limavady ..	11	7	176	130	1	3	3	103 0 0
Lisdonnan ..			9					6 0 0
Liverpool ..	5	11	95	130	2	25	1	135 0 0
Londonderry ..	2	2	93	120	1	6	6	150 0 0
Loughbrickland ..	6	9	141	120			2	115 0 0
Magherafelt ..	1		21	24				10 0 0
Mulvin ..	2	2	42	60	1	6	2	75 0 0
Newry ..	6	8	115	100	1	4	4	100 0 0
Newtownards ..	3	5	57	50	1	5	2	56 0 0
Rathfriland ..	7	12	231	250	2	15	13	120 0 0
Ringrash ..	4	5	50	60				25 0 0
Stranorlar ..	4	5	95	100	1	7	7	70 0 0

PUBLICATION FUND.

On hand at last Account, ...	£11 9	6½
Received for publications, ...	4 17	9
	£16 7	3½

CONGREGATIONAL AID FUND,

Year ending 30th June, 1881.

Dr.		£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year		20	9	0½
Return.				
Bailiesmills,	1 ..	13	0	0
Ballenon	1 ..	3	18	6
Ballybay	2 ..	15	14	6
Ballyclare	3 ..	19	1	6
Ballylaggan	1 ..	6	0	0
Ballylane	2 ..	6	10	0
Ballymoney	1 ..	5	7	6
Belfast	2 ..	29	0	0
,, Juv. Miss. Assoc.		10	0	0
Bready	2 ..	7	0	6
Cloughmills	1 ..	1	0	0
Coleraine	2 ..	11	2	0
Convoy	1 ..	3	0	6
Dervock	1 ..	1	13	0
Donegal	1 ..	3	0	0
Drimbolg	1 ...	4	15	0
Dromara	2 ..	13	13	0
Dromore	1 ..	1	6	6
Fairview	2 ..	6	14	0
Faughan—a Member ..		0	5	0
Garvagh	2 ..	6	11	0
Grange	2 ..	12	13	4
Kellswater	1 ..	2	18	0
,, B:Mena Soc. Box		1	2	0
Killinchy	3 ..	8	10	0
Kilraughts	1 ..	7	0	0
Knockbracken	1 ..	8	0	0
Larne	0 ..			
Limavady	1 ..	2	10	0
,, Rev. Wm. Dick		2	0	0
Lisdonnan	0 ..			
Liverpool	1 ..	3	10	0
London'erry	2 ..	10	12	3
Loughbrickland	2 ..	2	16	8
Magherafelt	2 ..	3	0	0
Mulvin	2 ..	11	14	0
Newry.	2 ..	2	4	6
Newtownards	2 ..	2	7	0
Rathfriland	2 ..	7	12	3
Ringrash	0 ..			
Stranorlar	2 ..	8	0	0
Rev. Dr. Martin Antioch		3	10	0
Home Mis. Fund ..		10	0	0
Inst. on Mr. Henry's don.		16	13	4
Inst. on the Kennedy don.		0	16	8
Inst. on the Scott Bequest		10	0	0
		£336	0	0½

Cr.		£	s.	d.
By Bailiesmills	..	18	0	0
Ballyclare	..	22	10	0
Ballylane	..	8	0	0
Fairview	..	43	0	0
Garvagh	..	28	0	0
Grange	..	43	0	0
Killinchy	..	23	0	0
Mulvin	..	28	0	0
Newtownards	..	23	0	0
Cloughmills	..	5	0	0
Dromore	..	5	0	0
Larne	..	10	0	0
Lisdonnan	..	6	0	0
Magherafelt	..	10	0	0
Liverpool	..	40	0	0
Reports Printing, &c,	..	3	10	0
Clerk of Commission	..	1	0	0
Proportion of travelling expenses of Commission	..	3	2	0
Deputation and working expenses	..	1	14	1
		£316	16	1
Balance on hand	..	19	3	11½
		£336	0	0½

COLONIAL MISSION ACCOUNT,

For the Year ending the 30th June, 1881.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year's Account ..	11	18	2½
Bailiesmills ..			
Ballybay ..	3	3	3
Belfast ..	4	10	0
Ballylaggan (1880) ..	2	8	2½
Ballymoney ..	3	3	3
Ballenon ..	1	17	6
Ballyclare ..	1	17	0
Ballylane ..	1	10	0
Bready ..	2	19	7
Coleraine ..	2	11	4
Cloughmills ..	0	15	0
Convoy ..			
Drimbolg ..	1	16	6
Dromara ..	2	10	0
Dromore ..	0	19	6
Donegal ..	2	10	0
Dervock ..	2	0	0
Fairview ..	0	17	6
Faughan ..			
Garvagh ..	0	17	0
Grange ..	1	0	0
Kellswater ..	4	0	0
Killinchy ..	1	1	7½
Kilraughts ...	4	4	3
Knockbracken ..	4	10	0
From a Friend, by Doctor Houston ..	2	10	0
Larne ..	0	12	6
Limavady ..	2	8	6
Londonderry ..			
Loughbrickland ..			
Mulvin ..	1	7	6
Maghernfelt ..			
Newry 1880) 1881 ..	2	0	0
Newtownards ..	0	13	0
Rathfriland ..	3	0	0
Ringrash ..			
Stranorlar ..	1	1	0
Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation ..	16	13	4
Interest on Mr. Scott's Bequest ..	5	0	0
Int. on Mr. Kennedy's Donation ..	0	16	8
Belfast Missionary Association ..	8	0	0
Dr. Martin, Syria ..	1	10	0
Ballylaggan (1881) ..	3	0	0
	£111	12	2½

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Mr. Moore's Life Policy	6	2	6
Printing Reports ..	2	0	0
Expenses November Commission ..	1	10	6
Clerk of Commission ..	1	0	0
Periodicals ..	0	16	0
Expenses March Commission ..	1	11	6
Rev. J. R. Lawson ..	20	0	0
A. M. Moore ..	20	0	0
A. M. Milliken, D.D., for British Colonies	30	0	0
Circulars, Postage, &c.	1	10	0
Balance ..	27	1	8½
	£111	12	2½
To Bal. to New Account	£27	1	8½

HALL AND SYNOD FUND

In Account with the Secretary, 1880-81.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Congregational Coll's., viz :—			
Bailiesmills ..	1	10	0
Ballenon ..	2	7	0
Ballybay ..	3	5	0
Ballyclare ..	2	3	5
Ballylaggan ..	3	0	0
Ballylane ..	1	8	7
Ballymoney ..	3	2	3
Belfast ..	5	11	0
Bready ..	3	5	0
Cloughmills ..	0	16	0
Coleraine ..	2	6	3
Convoy ..			
Dervock ..	2	1	2
Donegal ..	2	0	0
,, Mr. D. Brigham	5	0	0
Drimbolg ..	1	5	0
Dromara ..	2	5	0
Dromore ..	0	19	11
Fairview ..	1	2	6
Fanghan ..	2	0	0
Garvagh ..	1	1	0
Grange ..	1	10	0
Kellswater ..	3	0	0
Killinchy ..	1	10	0
Kilraughts ..	3	17	0
Knockbracken ..	0	10	0
Larne ..	0	13	0
Limavady ..	2	9	3
,, Rev. W. Dick	1	0	0
Lisdonnan ..			
Liverpool ..			
Londonderry ..	12	10	0
Children in Sab.-school	1	0	0
Loughbrickland ..	1	7	6
Magherafelt ..			
Mulvin ..	2	6	0
Newry ..	1	0	0
Newtownards ..	0	15	0
Rathfriland ..	3	7	5
Ringrash ..	1	2	0
Stranorlar ..	2	0	0
To a friend per Dr. Houston	5	0	0
,, Dr. Martin, Antioch, per Prof. Chancellor ..	1	10	0
,, Interest on Morrow's Legacy ..	2	10	0
,, Balance from Fund for Expenses of Dels. to Presb. Council in Philadelphia ..	4	0	1
	£105	0	4

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Balance from last year's Account ..	5	18	10½
,, Professors' Salaries ..	70	0	0
,, Printing Report ..	2	0	0
,, Travelling Expenses of Commission and Hall Committee — Proportion in November ..	1	10	6
,, Do., do, in March ..	1	11	6
,, Caretaker of Hall ..	2	0	0
,, Clerk of Synod ..	10	0	0
,, Clerk of Commission ..	1	0	0
,, Circulars, Postages, &c.	0	8	10½
,, Travelling Expenses of two Members of the Union Committee ..	1	7	7
,, Interest on Loan from Education Fund ..	5	0	0
,, Travelling Expenses of Deputation to Scottish Synod ..	3	0	0
,, Balance ..	1	9	0
	£105	0	4
To Balance to new Account	£1	9	0
N. B. Due to Education Fund ..	100	0	0
Due Prof. Houston ..	10	0	0
Due Prof. Chancellor ..	10	0	0
Total Debt	£120	0	0

Foreign and Jewish Mission.

Treasurer's Account for the year ending June, 1881.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year's Account ..	102	5	7
Mrs. Hurst, Manchester, annual sub. ..	5	0	0
Mr. A. Christie, London, annual sub. ..	5	0	0
Mr. Samuel Stevenson, Derry, annual sub. ..	1	0	0
CONGREGATIONAL COLLECTIONS.			
Ballenon ..	2	5	8
Drimbolg ..	2	0	0
Larne ..	0	13	0
Londonderry ..	10	18	11
Coleraine ..	2	14	0
Mulvin ..	2	1	0
Fairview ..	1	11	6
Bready ..	3	0	0
Dromara ..	3	0	0
Rathfriland ..	4	0	0
Killinchy £1 9 3			
Mr. J. Hewitt 1 0 0 —	2	9	3
Grange ..	1	1	0
B:Laggan col. £5 0 0			
Mr. N. Blair 1 0 0			
A Friend 0 10 0			
A Member 0 10 0 —	7	0	0
Belfast ..	6	0	0
Belfast cong. miss. assoc.	10	0	0
K:Bracken col £5 0 0			
Int. Musg 's don 5 0 0			
Mr. A. Downs, Monkstown 0 5 0—	10	5	0
Bailiesmills ..	1	5	0
Newtownards ..	1	10	0
Kilraughts ..	4	10	6
Kellswater ..	4	0	0
Ballyclare ..	2	8	1
Ballybay ..	5	0	0
Loughbrickland ..	1	1	8
Limavady ..	2	18	6
Faughan ..	1	18	9
Ringrash ..	1	2	0
Ballylane ..	1	15	6
Newry ..	1	3	4
Ballymoney ..	4	0	0
Donegal—Collected by Miss Brigham ..	5	0	0
Stranorlar col £3 0 3			
Box Mr. Cunningham's children 0 10 0 —	3	10	3
Garvagh ..	1	10	0
Convoy ..	2	0	0
Liverpool ..	1	0	0
Donation of a Friend, by Rev. Robt. Allen ..	5	0	0
A Friend, N. T. A·ds ..	1	0	0
Int. of Henry's Don ..	16	13	4
„ Kennedy's Don.	0	16	8
„ Scott's Bequest	5	0	0
Don. of Rev. Dr. Martin	5	0	0
	£261	8	6

Cr.	£	s.	d.
DISBURSEMENTS.			
Jan. 2.—Remitted Dr. Jas. Martin, Antioch, Half-year's Salary ..	70	0	0
Clerk of Commission ..	1	0	0
For Printing Report in the Minutes of Synod ..	2	0	0
Expenses of November and March Commissions ..	3	2	6
July 20.—Remitted to Dr. Martin, Antioch, Half-year's Salary ..	70	0	0
Postages, Circulars, &c. ..	0	14	6
	£146	17	0
Balance on hand ..	114	11	6
	£261	8	6

ACCOUNT OF SYRIAN MISSION SCHOOLS FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE, 1881.

RECEIPTS—			
Collections from Congregations of the Eastern Reformed Synod, remitted by Rev. W. Close :—			
Belfast ..	£4	8	5
Londonderry ..	2	4	6
Cullybackey ..	2	0	0
Milford ..	1	8	0
Ballyclabber Congregation, 2nd society, Coleraine	3	0	0
Geelong Cong. Australia Miss. Assoc. ..	25	0	0
Creevagh Cong. Miss. Assoc.	15	13	6
Legacy of Mr. S. Lamont, Ballymoney, 4th payment	10	0	0
Limavady Cong. Miss. Assoc.	8	7	6
Derry Cong. Sabbath School	1	8	6½
A Friend, Limavady ..	1	0	0
A Friend, Letterkenny ..	1	0	0
Knockbracken Cong. Ladies' Association ..	11	2	7
Rathfriland Sabbath-school Mission Box £1 13 6			
Benfield do. 0 6 6—	2	0	0
Mrs. Mary Nimock Caldwell, Castlerock ..	1	10	0
Mr. A. Storey, Sea View, Letterkenny ..	1	0	0
Collected. by Mrs. Chancellor, Belfast ..	0	15	0
Children of Sabbath-school, Limavady Congregation	3	11	7½
	£109	14	8
DISBUSEMENTS.			
Jan. 2.—Remitted Dr. Martin for schools in Antioch	£40	0	0
July 20.— Do. do.	69	0	0
	£109	0	0
Balance on hand ..	0	14	8
	£109	14	8

General Financial Statement

June, 1881.

Aged Ministers' Fund.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Credit ..	2741	4	9	By Rev. Samuel Simms ..	50	0	0
„ Interest for year ..	137	1	2	„ Balance ..	2828	5	11
	£2878	5	11		£2878	5	11

The Henry Donation.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Credit ..	1000	0	0	By Colonial Mission ..	16	13	4
„ Interest for year ..	50	0	0	„ Foreign Mission ..	16	13	4
				„ Congregational Aid Scheme ..	16	13	4
				„ Balance ..	1000	0	0
	£1050	0	0		£1050	0	0

The Scott Bequest.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Credit ..	400	0	0	By Colonial Mission ..	5	0	0
„ Interest for year ..	20	0	0	„ Foreign Mission ..	5	0	0
				„ Congregational Aid Scheme ..	10	0	0
				„ Balance ..	400	0	0
	£420	0	0		£420	0	0

The Morrow Legacy.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Credit ..	50	0	0	By Interest to Theological Hall ..	2	10	0
„ Interest for year ..	2	10	0	„ Balance ..	50	0	0
	£52	10	0		£52	10	0

Education Fund.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance £620 4 0				By Library Grant ..	15	0	0
„ Less lent to Hall £100 0 0	520	4	0	„ Insurance Library ..	0	10	0
„ Interest for year ..	26	0	2	„ Beneficiaries ..	20	0	0
„ Interest Theological Hall ..	5	0	0	„ Balance ..	515	14	2
	£551	4	2		£551	4	2

The Musgrave Donation.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Credit ..	100	0	0	By Foreign Mission ..	5	0	0
„ Interest for year ..	5	0	0	„ Balance ..	100	0	0
	£105	0	0		£105	0	0

General Financial Statement.—Continued.

June 1, 1881.

Australian Mission Fund.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Credit ..	326	5	0	By Balance ..	342	11	3
„ Interest for year ..	16	6	3				
	£342	11	3		£342	11	3

CONGREGATIONAL AID SCHEME.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Credit ..	200	0	0	By Congregational Aid ..	10	0	0
„ Interest for year ..	10	0	0	„ Balance ..	200	0	0
	£210	0	0		£210	0	0

Bicentenary Fund.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Credit ..	661	11	6	By Balance ..	£694	13	0
„ Interest for year ..	33	1	6				
	£694	13	0		£694	13	0

JOSEPH HENRY'S BEQUEST & KILRAUGHTS CONGREGATION.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Credit ..	177	18	0	By Balance ..	186	15	10
„ Interest for year ..	8	17	10				
	£186	15	10		£186	15	10

Foreign Mission.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Credit ..	40	0	0	By Foreign Mission ..	2	0	0
„ Interest for year ..	2	0	0	„ Balance ..	40	0	0
	£42	0	0		£42	0	0

The Kennedy Donation.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Credit ..	50	0	0	By Colonial Mission ..	0	16	8
„ Interest for year ..	2	10	0	„ Foreign Mission ..	0	16	8
				„ Congregational Aid Scheme ..	0	16	8
				„ Balance ..	50	0	0
	£52	10	0		£52	10	0

MANCHESTER CONGREGATION FUND.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Credit ..	411	0	0	By Liverpool Congregation	£19	0	0
„ Interest ..	20	11	0	„ Foreign Mission ..	1	0	0
				„ Balance ..	411	0	0
	£431	11	0		£431	11	0

General Financial Statement.—Continued.

SUMMARY.

Assets.				Liabilities.			
To Mortgage Securities	£4048	18	9	By Balance at credit Aged Ministers' Fund	£2828	5	11
„ Bonds	1864	1	1	„ The Henry Donation	1000	0	0
„ Cash on Deposit ..	765	0	0	„ The Scott Bequest ..	400	0	0
„ Balance in hands of Treasurer at 31st May ..	200	15	2	„ The Morrow Legacy	50	0	0
				„ The Musgrave Don...	100	0	0
				„ Australian Miss. Fund	342	11	3
				„ Cong. Aid Scheme ..	200	0	0
				„ Bicentenary Fund ..	694	13	0
				„ J. Henry's Bequest & Kilraughts Cong...	186	15	10
				„ Interest Account ..	194	3	10
				„ Foreign Mission ..	40	0	0
				„ The Kennedy Don...	50	0	0
				„ Manchester Congregation Fund ..	411	11	0
				„ Miss Adams' Bequest	400	0	0
				„ Brigham Donation ..	40	0	0
				„ Educ. Fund £615 14 2			
				„ Bal. of Loan to T. G. Houston, Esq., repaid by him in full £25 0 0			
					£640 14 2		
				„ Less cash lent Theo. Hall, per Rev. R. Nevin .. £100 0 0	—540	14	2
	£7478	15	0		£7478	15	0

We have examined above, compared with Vouchers, and found all correct.

JAMES REYNOLDS.
SAMUEL AIKIN.

ACCOUNT OF EXPENSES OF DELEGATES

TO MEETING OF

Presbyterian Alliance in Philadelphia, U.S., in 1880.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Congregational Colls., viz.:—			
Bailiesmills ..	1	0	0
Ballenon ..	1	5	0
Ballybay ..	1	4	0
Ballyclare ..	1	9	6
Ballylaggan ..	1	16	0
Ballylane ..	1	2	0
Ballymoney ..	3	2	0
Belfast ..	3	0	0
Bready ..	2	0	0
Cloughmills ..			
Coleraine ..	1	10	1
Convoy ..			
Dervock ..	2	15	0
Donegal ..	1	0	0
Drimbolg ..	1	3	0
Dromara ..	1	15	0
Dromore ..			
Fairview ..	0	12	0
Faughan ..	1	5	0
Garvagh ..	1	0	0
Grange ..	1	8	6
Kellswater ..	3	0	0
Killinchy ..	0	12	7
Kilraughts ..	2	0	0
Knockbracken ..	2	0	0
Larne ..	0	17	6
Limavady ..	1	12	0
Lisdonnan ..			
Liverpool ..	3	0	0
Londonderry ..	4	2	5
Loughbrickland ..	1	7	1
Magherafelt ..			
Mulvin ..	1	1	0
Newry ..	1	0	0
Newtownards ..	0	11	6
Rathfriland ..	3	0	0
Ringrash ..	0	18	0
Stranorlar ..	0	12	0
	£54	1	2

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Mr. Maxwell ..	25	0	0
,, Mr. Brown ..	25	0	0
,, Bank Orders and Postages ..	0	1	1
,, Balance transferred to credit of Hall and Synod Fund, by order of Synod ..	4	0	1
	£54	1	2

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE AMERICAN SYNOD.

To the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States of North America.

DEAR BRETHREN—As we anticipated, your last letter to us was received in time to be read at our meeting of Synod, and the reading of it gave great satisfaction to all the members. Owing to your numbers, and the circumstances in which you are placed, you have opportunities and facilities for entering upon various fields of Christian work which smaller communities in these older countries have not. We follow with the greatest interest your movements in these various fields. We admire the alacrity with which agents offer themselves for service in them, and the liberality evinced by your people in supporting every good work at home and abroad; and we heartily pray that God may bless all your efforts to glorify His name and do good to the souls of men. Exercise is necessary to preserve the bodily organs in health, vigour, and efficiency. Even so a Christian community will become stagnant and dead, if there be not earnest working for Christ, in the way of sending the glad tidings of salvation to the ends of the earth, and seeking to win souls to Him. We rejoice therefore in receiving the report of your diversified evangelistic operations, and of the measure of success which, under the divine blessing, has attended them.

We sympathize with you in the expectation that your College will have a greater degree of prosperity and efficiency in its new location at Beaver Falls. The place seems central for your Church generally, and every way suitable and desirable; and we congratulate you on the completion of such an establishment. We trust it will become a source of enlightenment to many regions both at home and abroad.

We are glad to learn that the Foreign Mission not only retains its place in the regard of your people, but that it seems to be enlisting a larger measure of interest, as witnessed by increased contributions towards its support. This is as it should be, and furnishes an index of growth in vital godliness on the part of Church members. Such liberality, so far from being lost, may be expected to have a blessed issue not only in respect to those to whom the Gospel is sent, but also in respect to those who help in sending it. It will return into their own bosom. Those who lend to the Lord have the best of security for payment with high interest, for the promise is sure that they who sow bountifully shall also reap bountifully.

Each of your evangelistic schemes has its own special interest and attraction—that among the Freedmen of the South—that among the Chinese in California—and that of National Reform. For the last-named the principles and training of Reformed Presbyterian witnesses fit them for presenting revealed truth in its practical application in a way and with a force, we might say, peculiar to themselves—as is evinced by the opposition exhibited in many quarters where better might well have been expected.

The demise of so many of your ministers naturally calls up feelings of sadness, but it is some consolation that the Lord does not leave Himself without witnesses—that you have so many young men ready to throw themselves into the breach, and to come to the help of the Lord against the mighty.

We, too, have been called to mourn over the removal of ministers dearly beloved. Very soon after our last letter to you was written, on the 24th of May, Dr. Dick was called to his eternal reward, in the 81st year of his age, and having been an ordained minister for fifty-four years. He was ever a conspicuous figure in our Church courts, and his opinions and counsels were always regarded as of the greatest weight. In these respects he will be long missed. He had the satisfaction, such as is accorded to few, of seeing three sons settled in important congregations, all able ministers of the New Testament; and a fourth, the youngest, who is a licentiate, at the head of a flourishing Academical Institution in the historic City of Londonderry.

More recently, on the 21st March of the present year, the Rev. Samuel Simms, of Loughbrickland, in the County Down, was taken from the Church on earth, in the 69th year of his age and 42nd of his ministry. In early life he became from earnest conviction a member of our Church and a candidate for her ministry, thereby relinquishing worldly prospects that would have had greater attraction for most young men. His attachment to the principles and testimony of the Church was evinced by several publications from time to time in which he displayed a logical mind in the use of forcible argument. For years he was laid aside from the usual work of the ministry by a severe nervous affection. He had recovered to a great extent from this, and begun to preach again with much of his former power, when he was struck down by an attack of apoplexy (the second) which proved fatal. The lessons thus impressed upon us—Work while it is day—Be ye also ready—we desire to lay deeply to heart.

Four students were enrolled in our Theological Hall at the commencement of the session recently closed, but only one of these is so far advanced as to be ready for licence. We have several vacancies, and but little help from young men at present; we hope however, to be in a better position in that respect soon.

Our country, as you doubtless are aware, has now been for several months the arena of a strong agrarian agitation. Impoverishment to great extent was the result of three unfavourable seasons. Demagogues and mischief-makers were not slow in taking advantage of the circumstances to stir up an ignorant and excitable people to deeds of lawlessness and crime. But the districts in which our congregations are located have been happily almost free from these. And we are not without hope that, in the providence of God, good will yet be brought out of the evil—that, by a legal adjustment of the relations between the owners and the occupiers of the land, while the just rights of the former are respected, the latter may be encouraged to strive to take as much out of the soil as it is capable of yielding. Hitherto, it must be acknowledged, such encouragement has not been

held out in every instance, as it might have been, and we may say as it ought to have been. In an old and thickly populated country such as ours this is a matter of no secondary importance. All classes live ultimately of the products of the soil, and this is more directly true of a country so largely agricultural as Ireland. It is clear in such a case, that whatever tends to ameliorate the condition of the tillers of the soil must tell at once upon the prosperity of all other classes. May our legislators be imbued with wisdom from on high, to meet in a proper spirit and manner the emergencies of the case!

We remain, dear brethren, yours in the bonds of the Gospel,

Signed on behalf of Synod,

A. M. STAVELY, Moderator.
R. NEVIN, Clerk.

TO THE SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND.

DEAR BRETHREN—The common cause we have at heart and the common difficulties we meet in attempting its advancement bind us closely together, and give us a special interest in your letters. They witness to us your steadfast adherence to the testimony of our fathers, and encourage in us a like faithfulness. We are interested spectators of every practical movement, in which our brethren in the old country are concerned. There as here, we scan every public question with special reference to the effect that its decision will have on the coming of the kingdom of our Lord. Here in our new country, we feel that our principles have, maybe, a readier hearing and a brighter prospect of success than in the land which gave them birth. Our neighbours are not so settled in traditional belief, and they are quite ready to hear the truth. It is true that we have no political leader of the Christian character of Gladstone; true also, that the boldest atheist could not be prevented by our laws, and would not be prevented by the votes of our legislators, from taking a seat in our National Council, yet this utter lack of even a pretention of religion is fast waking up our people to a realizing sense of its absence. The question is cleared from the mistiness caused by a mistaken or vicious establishment in a way that makes the case plain and the conclusions which a Covenanter would draw irresistible.

This year being the 300th anniversary of the signing of the first great National Covenant and the 10th of our Covenant of 1881, an evening was devoted by Synod to appropriate exercises of a very solemn and affecting character. The Synod now meets in the same Church in which a decade of years ago this last Covenant was entered into. A vivid and powerful recollection of that time was present in every mind as the Synod stood up to renew its pledge of faithfulness to the bond.

The year past has been marked by the development, in every field of Church effort, of the idea that all true progress consists in educating

a ministry specially qualified to carry on the Church's work. This was the plan of the Great Teacher, and we need to follow His methods to secure His results.

Great attention has been drawn during this year to the Foreign Mission by the departure of Dr. Beattie, who goes out to found a theological school for the preparation of a native ministry. Ever since Dr. Duff adopted this plan in India, it has been felt to be the only way in which the heathen nations could be won to Christ. Many young men have already offered themselves for the work. This school, together with the large number of mission schools opened by our missionaries, has so encouraged our people, that the contributions for this mission are considerably larger than ever before. Dr. A. J. Dodds, a son of the late missionary, is soon to go out to reinforce the mission. Dr. S. O. Wylie, the Chairman of the Board, together with several others, is expected to visit the mission field this coming Summer, and report as to its condition and prospects. The mission has enjoyed this year much more than its usual success, the fruit of previous labours, and gives great promise of the firm establishment of the Christian religion on its ancient soil.

The Southern Mission, too, in carrying out this same plan of education, has been enabled through the liberality of its friends to erect a new and commodious school building, and we look that there, as in Syria, the work will in a few years be beyond our reach, carried on by teachers educated in the midst of the work to be done.

In San Francisco, our devoted missionary, the Rev. N. R. Johnston, is striving to educate the Chinamen under his care, that they may carry home with them the truth that will regenerate their own land. The fact, that all who come to us across the Pacific intend to return as soon as they can acquire a competence, enables us to do Foreign Mission work at home. In many cities these strangers are gathered into our Sabbath schools. Were it not for the evil influence of many among us, who are worse than the heathen, but few of these foreigners would go home without having confessed the religion of Christ.

Then at home here, preparatory institutions have the first place in the mind of the Church. The Seminary has its usual complement of students, and is in a flourishing condition. The building for Geneva College is fast nearing completion. It is a fine structure, in a select situation, with the best of surroundings. The Synod showed its interest in it by taking a recess for a whole day during a hurried session, and travelling 30 miles to hear the graduating exercises of the class of '81, and to attend the dedication of the college building to the end for which it was designed. The institution is great in comparison with others, not in age or wealth or in the number of its graduates, but in the principle which has built it, and which it was founded to advance, viz., the universal dominion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We learn with deep regret of the death of Dr. Dick, and of the Rev. Samuel Simms. Both were well known in this country—the former, on account of his theological attainments; and the latter, from his

powerful support, both by tongue and pen, of our distinctive principles.

We have also lost during the past year two of our brethren, the Rev. M. Wilkin, of Pleasant Ridge, Kansas, and the Rev. John French, of Cedar Lake, Michigan. Both were able and efficient ministers of the Gospel. They were past the middle age, but were still men of active life and great usefulness.

You will be pleased to learn that the vacancies in the Presbyteries of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, which until lately were your special care, are being filled up. Mr. Thos. M'Fall has accepted of a call from the congregation of Cornwallis and Horton. Mr. J. A. Bovard is stated supply at Houlton, and Mr. John Teaz, at St. John. With special reason, we ask you to rejoice with us, that the Master is sending labourers into His vineyard. We convey to you the fraternal regard of our Synod, and wishing you peace and prosperity, we commend you to the care of our common Lord.

T. P. STEVENSON, Moderator.
D. B. WILLSON, Clerk.